



February 2024 newsletter

[Pear Tree Mead Academy February 2024 Newsletter](#)



[In This Issue](#)

We share some news of activities that have taken place this half term, share more information about next half term and some important reminders.

Message from Mrs Peden, Headteacher

Dear parents

Its been an exciting half term with lots going on as usual. Please see below for the information about what we have been up to.

Our opal project is really taking off and we are very grateful for your donations. Please keep them coming and ask around if anyone else has anything. The children are really enjoying the new areas so far and we are looking forward to increasing these across KS1 and then into KS2. The early year children will also be able to access some of the areas over the rest of the year. A reminder that KS1 children need wellies and spare clothes to stay in school where possible. Our sway link to the photo blog will be updated as new areas take place.

Since the 1st January we have been part of PCLC. The staff have attended cross school moderation meetings and on the inset days joined all the other PCLC primaries for a joint conference. Our new PCLC website is going to be launched soon - there are some lovely new photos of the children on there. We have announced our house launch day for the 1st March. (please see Parentmail for the letter) Please make sure you let your child know what house they are in ready for the day. Thank you to those parents who have made early orders for the new house coloured PE tops. There will be a phased introduction of these over the next few terms.

We have been given some money from the Essex County Council locality fund. This has been spent on some resources for the new sand pit, opal storage and resources, more breakfast and lunch club resources. I'm sure the children will enjoy using the new resources.

We have had a few movements around the school with staffing locations. My room has changed and Mrs Thurgood is now based over by the main office. We were very lucky to have been donated some money from a grandparent for staff (thank you so much to them) and this will be spent on creating a new PPA space for the staff to work on planning, preparation and assessment in phase teams. Hopefully this space will be a calming space for staff to work together. The nurture group is moving spaces from the pre school room to the Hive.

Next term is always a busy one with Easter activities and our annual swimming gala. We also have another charity fund raising day coming up. Written school reports will be coming for Year 1 to 6 and parents evening will also be taking place next half term, Please see below for more information on next half terms activities. All events are also on our website and on Parentmail in the events sections.

We wish you all a lovely half term break and look forward to seeing you all on the 26th February.

Mrs Peden

- **Message from the Headteacher.**
- **What's coming up next term?**
- **OPAL update**
- **FOPTM update**
- **What's been going on this half term?**
- **Governors needed**

- **Gardeners wanted**
- **Reminders**
- **Contact Us**

What's coming up next term?

26th February - Back to School

27th and 28th February - FOPTM Mothers and Others Gift Sale - £2.50 for a wrapped gift.

1st March - House Launch Day - children to wear the colours of their new house. Year R to Year 6.

4th - 8th March - RSE Week

4th - Year 2 and 3 Autism Workshops - MSC

7th March - World Book Day - World book day - KS2 to wear a costume from the Little Princess Production, EY and Ks1 to wear book costumes.

7th March - KS2 to watch the live production of the Little Princess. Year 4 to have a theatre workshop afterwards

8th March - Mothers Day Afternoon 1:30pm-3pm - Year 1 & 2 female adults

11th March - Year 6 Knife Crime Workshop

11th March - Fundraising Day for the Multi-Schools Council. £1 contribution - children to come dressed 'This is me' celebrating diversity, a reminder that we are all different - celebrating yourself and how amazing we all are - what makes you, you?

11th March - ADHD workshops for 4 classes - MSC

11th, 12th 13th - Donation day of Easter eggs and chocolate for the Easter Fayre and chocolate raffle - every entry goes into a draw for an Entertainer voucher.

11th-15th March - Science Week - Children will take part in actives during the school day

13th March - Young Carers Awareness Action Day - please can all the children wear funky socks on this day to raise awareness.

13th March - Young Carers Special OPAL event - young carers will be invited.

18th March - Reports will be sent home to parents - Year 1-6 only

19th March - Parent Consultations 3:30pm-5:30pm-Face to face - Invites will be sent out via ParentMail

20th March - Parent Consultations 5pm-7:30pm - Via Teams - Invites will be sent out via ParentMail

20th March - Nursery Induction - All new nursery parents

22nd March - Non Uniform day for donations for the Easter Fayre - EY and KS1 - Chocolate and Ks2 - bottles.

23rd March - Closing Date for FOPTM Easter competition - Bonnets and Masks - please bring your entries to the Fayre - judging will take place on the day. (Can be bought to school before the Fayre if needed)

23rd March - FOPTM Easter Fayre 12pm-3pm - please see FOPTM Facebook page for more information and to offer to help.

25th March - Swimming Gala

25th March - Easter Assembly - 9am-10:30am - Children only to attend church

26th March - Easter Egg Hunt Activity - All day activity - whole school

26th March - Pre school & Nursery Finish

27th March - Reception Easter Show - 9:20-10am- Reception Parents are invited to this, Photos will be sold by FOPTM from £3

28th March - Chocolate Raffle, prizes for the Easter competition will be presented - FOPTM

28th March - End of Term 1:30pm finish

28th March - FOPTM Preloved uniform Sale - 1:30pm in the Small Hall for Nursery & Pre school

15th April - Inset day

16th April - Return to school

OPAL

A reminder of donations that we are accepting.

To facilitate this project, we will need to buy some new resources, move some things around on the playground and require some loose parts. Loose parts are any materials that can be easily moved, combined, and incorporated into children's free play. The items we are looking for will enable us to enjoy a wider range of play experiences during playtime (see below for some examples):

- Anything on wheels/castors – eg balance bikes, scooters + helmets and protectors
- Plastic milk crates/supermarket delivery crates/plastic bread trays
- Briefcases, especially hard cased ones, hand bags
- Road signs and cones
- Kitchen pots, frying pans, pans, baking trays, work tables, wooden spoons, chopping boards
- Tools like small spades/shovels, trowels and brooms
- Tubes of various sizes and various materials
- Large Buckets and watering cans
- Nets and thick ropes
- Dinosaurs, Cars, vehicles, play people
- toy babies, pushchairs etc

- Buckets, spades, sand moulds for using in the sand
- Fabric (large sheets/brightly coloured fabric / old curtains)
- Foam sheets/bodyboards/camping roll mats/yoga mats
- Wooden pallets
- Tyres
- Tarpaulin
- Metal frames
- Cable drums, water drums
- Guttering, piping
- Noodles (the type you use in the swimming pool!)
- Hats/scarves/jazzy shirts/elasticated skirts/waistcoats/wedding dresses/character costumes/capes
- Pegs (to help to set up dens)

We are also looking for some volunteers to help us build some of our larger items. We would like provide the children with a mud kitchen / messy café which will need making out of pallets. If you would be able to offer us some of your time please email info@peartreemead.essex.sch.uk. We would be interested in talking to any companies that may be able to complete this work for us.

<https://sway.cloud.microsoft/1ecqOpjOfC6F9BVR?ref=Link>

This is the sway link to our photo blog of our OPAL journey so far.

LOOK OUT FOR OUR NEW SANDPIT - COMING SOON! - It's been built and the children will start to use it after half term.

Keep an eye open for more updates.

FOPTM Update



It's been yet another busy half term for friends of pear tree mead. We had our THIS IS ME disco celebrating Mental Health Week and a film night. Both were a huge hit with all the children having an amazing time.

Next term we have some very exciting things planned. We kick off with our Mother's & Others present sale for Mother's Day. FOPTM will be doing our present sale on Tuesday 27th & 28th February during school time. This is a great way for your children to buy a little gift for that special person in their life for mothers day. We have a range of lovely gifts suitable for everyone £2.50 per gift.

Planning has already started for our Easter fair on Saturday 23rd of March. Loads of fun to be had that can be enjoyed by all the family. Currently we're struggling with getting helpers on the day. The more people we have the more things we can do making it super fun for the children. Sadly, as it currently stands on the day, we will only be able to run the BBQ and raffle with the possibility of a few games being run. A lot of activities/stalls we have got planned are 100% profit as well as some of the children's favourite games to play. To give you an idea here are some of the things we have planned and how much we took last year

- Face painting - TOOK £182.90
- Bottle hoopla, 100% PROFIT - TOOK £166.40
- Chocolate Raffle, 100% PROFIT - TOOK £158.00
- Hook a duck, 100% PROFIT - TOOK £127.00

- Egg Decorating, 100% PROFIT (using left over stock) – TOOK £100
- Teddy Tombola 100% PROFIT - TOOK £75.25
- Glitter tattoos - TOOK £69.00
- Easter Egg Hunt - TOOK £61.00

We are also looking at doing...

- Wheel of fortune – 100% PROFIT
- Break the Code – 100% PROFIT

So please consider offering your help. It doesn't have to be yourself it can be another member of your family. Please get in contact via our Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/share/6tnJKBUfCAxLiCCx/?mibextid=K35XfP>

Don't forget about our clothing bin! just bring in your items as and when you want! You can bring in clothing, hats, bags towels, bedding and even CD's and dvds. We have just been notified we will be receiving our first amount from Kids Just Recycle which is £100+ (total will be announce shortly) thank you to anyone who's already bought in bags.

As you all know FOPTM rely on your very kind donations to keep our Pre-loved uniform going. So please make sure items such as uniform, pe kit, coats, shoes, wellies go into the grey storage box which you will find outside the main office. We would also appreciate teddies and soft toy donations!

Always a massive thank you to everybody who supports us by attending or events and donating uniform! Your kindness and generosity never goes unnoticed. We hope you have a wonderful half term and we're excited for what we have planned for the lead up to Easter which should be full of fun.

The FOPTM Team



PEAR TREE MEAD ACADEMY EASTER FAIR

Saturday 23rd March 12-3pm

FREE ENTRY

Easter Egg Hunt - Food & Drink

Games - Crafts

Local Business Stalls - Raffle

Bonnet / Mask competition

Face Painting

Pear Tree Mead Academy

Pear Tree Mead, Harlow

CM18 7BY

Made with PosterMyWall.com



FOPTM

Easter Bonnet & Mask Competition



Entries to be brought to the Easter fair or on Friday 22nd. Every entry receives an Easter treat with winners winning a prize!

A collection of colorful Easter eggs in various patterns and colors (blue, pink, orange, yellow, green, purple) arranged in a circular pattern around the text.

FOPTM
**EASTER
EGGS
DONATIONS**

**BRING IN YOUR EGG DONATIONS
BETWEEN THE 11TH & 13TH MARCH
JUST SIMPLY DROP THEM INTO YOUR
CHILDS CLASS**

**IN RETURN YOUR CHILD WILL BE ENTERED INTO THE
PUPILS PRIZE DRAW FOR A CHANCE TO WIN A
ENTERTAINER VOUCHER**

Made with PosterMyWall.com

FOPTM
**NON-SCHOOL
UNIFORM**

FRIDAY 22ND MARCH
**PRESCHOOL, NURSERY
RECEPTION YEAR 1, YEAR 2**

CHOCOLATE DONATION

YEARS 3, 4, 5 & 6

BOTTLE DONATION

A decorative illustration at the bottom of the poster featuring two pink Easter bunnies, several colorful Easter eggs, and white daisies on a green grassy background.

Made with PosterMyWall.com



What's been going on this half term?

Blue Monday- Streets to homes fundraiser-wear bright colours.

We were so pleased to raise money for Streets to Homes this half term. They came into school to do an assembly and talk to the children about where the money raised would help.

The children wore their brightest clothes on that to cheer us all up on 'Blue Monday' Giving is also one of the 5 ways to well being, so giving to charity supports our own mental health.

In an exciting expedition, the Year 2 children embarked on an adventure with their trusty explorer bears. Armed with maps of the school, the children eagerly set out to uncover hidden gems scattered throughout the premises. As they navigated their way through the playgrounds and outdoors, the children utilised their geographical learning, identifying landmarks and following directions to locate the treasures. Amidst their exploration, laughter and excitement filled the air, creating an atmosphere of joy and camaraderie. The expedition not only provided a fun and engaging experience but also offered a practical application of their geographical knowledge, reinforcing concepts learned in the classroom. Overall, Juniper and Hazel had a fantastic time on their expedition with their explorer bears, combining learning with adventure in an unforgettable journey.

Year 3 Fire Safety Talk

Year 3 enjoyed a fire safety talk from the fire brigade. They learnt lots about hazards in the home and how to keep safe. They enjoyed watching a short cartoon and identifying the problems! The children learned lots about smoke alarms and how they help to keep us safe.

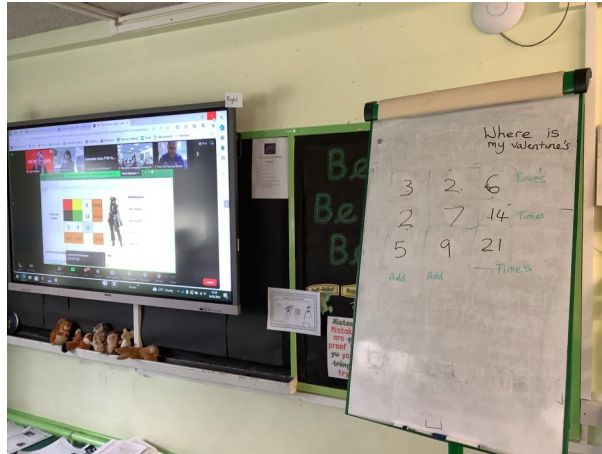
Year 3 Lavender enjoyed taking part in an online zoom session called ,My First Love Maths' where they got to meet a real-life mathematician. They enjoyed listening to the mathematician talking about real life uses of maths. Lavender absolutely loved the problem solving linked to the Pirates of the Caribbean and cheered when they were able to solve the problem.













On Thursday, Year 4 had a sports festival at Passmores school. They tried their hand at a number of sports, and ended the day with a football tournament. All of the children had a lot of fun, and learned a lot of new things.

















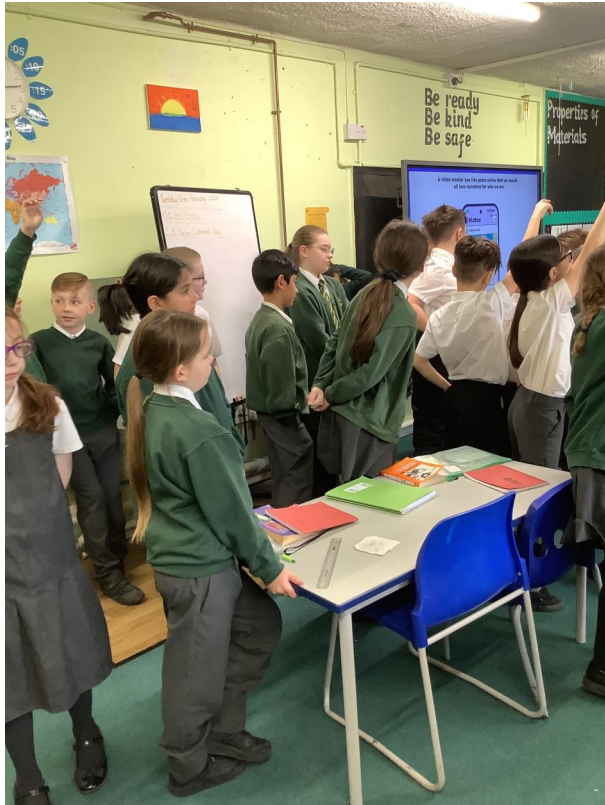
Internet Safety Day

Mr Thurgood held assemblies to the whole school for Safer Internet Day. The children were very engaged and enjoyed watching the information. As a parent or carer you play a key role in helping your child to stay safe online. You don't need to be an expert on the internet to help keep your child stay safe online. Our advice and resources are here to support you as you support your child to use the internet safely, responsibly and positively. Please see the parent information link below to a website that you may find useful.

[Parents and Carers - UK Safer Internet Centre](#)

Last week, Sycamore class (Year 5) took part in Safer Internet Day, along with the rest of the school. We started our day with a wonderful assembly delivered by Mr Thurgood. We then looked at how technology has changed over time in lots of different areas, including phones, music, gaming and education. We compared how technology was used a long time ago compared to what we are able to do with it now. We also discussed how the safety measures have had to evolve to ensure that we are all using this in the safest way possible. This resulted in us designing how we would like the same categories of technology to look in 20 years time. After this, we played a matching game whereby we looked at a range of techniques used by different companies to persuade us to do something. We learnt lots of new terms for persuasion techniques, such as loot boxes and push notifications, as well as the impacts they would have on the public. After break time, we explored a few different areas, including a game looking at the influence the internet can have on others, questions around AI and finally creating our very own influencer who wanted to change the world for the better. All in all, we have really enjoyed the tasks that we have completed and feel like we now have an even better understanding as to how we can make sure both ourselves and others stay safe online.







KS2 SEND Panathlon Multi-Skills Challenge

Active Essex visited our school for a Panathlon Multi-skills Challenge activity for KS2 SEND children. This consisted of 3 sessions of 45 mins for groups of children with SEND. During the sessions the

children acted as a team working round a carousel of multi-skills activities - spending approximately 5 mins on each task to win points, complete the challenge and receive a certificate.

The feedback from all of the children who participated was fantastic. They all thoroughly enjoyed the event.















The School took part in the Children's Mental Health Week, where the theme this year was 'Your voice matters' All classes took part in activities. This week was sponsored by Place2Be and the theme was My Voice Matters. Every PSHE activity that we completed throughout this time was centered on this theme. We started the week with a class assembly looking at the theme of the

week and how this relates and is important to the world today. This included quotes from famous people, such as Marcus Rashford, as well as a clip from the much-loved movie Sing. We found it hard to not join in with the singing! Throughout the week, we completed lots of different activities, including a Walk and Talk event, where we discussed a number of questions with our classmates. We really enjoyed this as it gave us an opportunity to talk to people we may not usually talk to and find out a bit more about them. We also created a Wheel of Importance. In the centre of the wheel, we had day-to-day things that were important to us, and this then progressed outwards to include things across the world. Finally, we explored the feeling of gratitude and also reminisced on proud moments that we have had, in different parts of our lives, across the year so far. We have enjoyed the activities that we have taken part in and look forward to putting some of the things we have learnt about into practise.

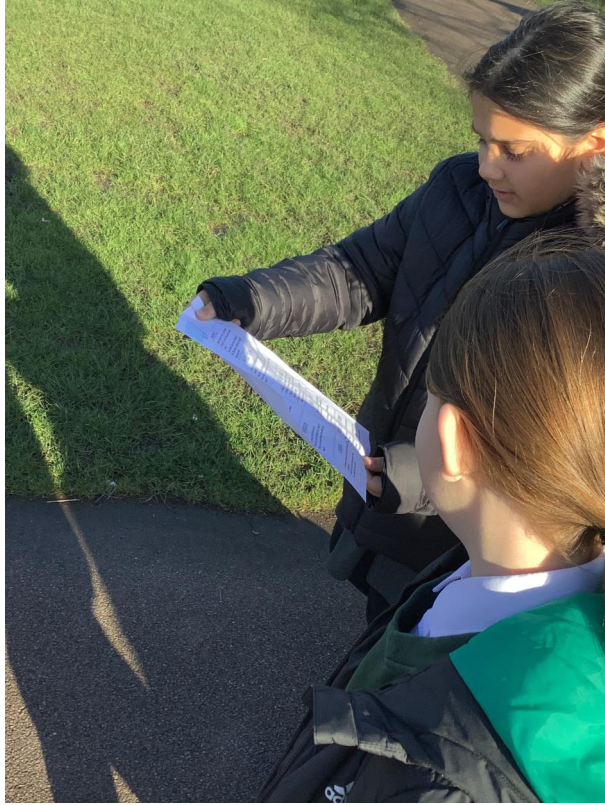
For mental health week Saplings took part in some yoga and bubble blowing to help with our stress and anxiety. We also spoke about our feelings.

Hazel class enjoyed Mental Health Week. Learning about feelings, Mental Health Walk & Mental Health map.

All the classes enjoyed a fresh Walk and Talk as part of mental health week. Below are some photos of the Year 3 children enjoying asking questions to their friends and really taking the time to listen to their answers.

The children in year 3 have also been enjoying their weekly workshops on emotions and have developed their use of language around how they are feeling. The children have loved completing lots of activities in their booklet and have really thought hard to decide on which tools are best for them to use if they are feeling sad, cross, angry or wiggly. They are really looking forward to completing this course in Spring 2.

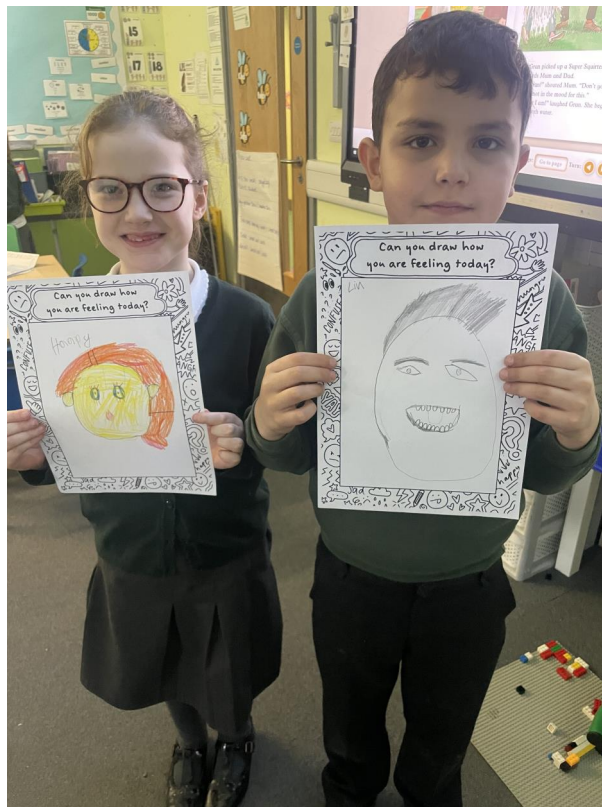
As part of their PSHE lessons, Lavender class looked at the book 'This is our house' and created some anti discrimination posters. All the adults were proud of how the children approach this and the ideas that came up with to stop discrimination.











[Parent Information Link Below](#)

[Parent Information](#) - Helping your child get ready for School Sessions

School Drop Off

At Pear Tree Mead, our utmost priority is to cultivate a positive and nurturing atmosphere for your children. In our efforts to achieve this, we've observed that some children may experience a degree of unease when parents linger on-site after dropping them off. To facilitate a seamless transition and minimise any potential discomfort for the children, we kindly ask parents to drop off their children and promptly depart from the site.

SENSORY TOOLS

As we continue to foster a supportive and inclusive learning environment at our school, I wanted to take a moment to share some information regarding the use of sensory tools in the classroom.

Our school is committed to meeting the diverse needs of all students, and in line with this commitment, we may introduce the use of ear defenders and other sensory tools in certain situations. These tools are specifically designed to provide additional support for children who may benefit from a more controlled sensory environment during their learning experiences.

It's important to note that the implementation of sensory tools is not a one-size-fits-all approach. Instead, our goal is to tailor our support to the unique needs of individual children. If, during the course of the academic year, we observe that a child might benefit from the use of specific sensory tools, we will communicate with you directly to discuss the matter further.

However, we kindly request that children do not bring their own sensory tools into school without prior consultation with the school staff. This ensures that the tools used are appropriate and specifically selected to address the unique needs of each child.

Our intention is always to create a positive and inclusive learning environment where every child can thrive.

Childcare Information

Childcare Choices: Get the help that fits your family, so you can juggle work and life

Thousands of families could be saving money on their childcare costs. But some simply don't know what support they might be eligible for.

The Childcare Choices website brings together all the existing childcare offers in one place, so parents can get the help that fits their family.

This could be through Tax-Free Childcare, 30 Hours Childcare, or Universal Credit Childcare.

Some families might be eligible to use more than one childcare schemes together and get the most out of it and from next year even more help is on the way:

- From April 2024, eligible working parents in England with children aged 2 will have access to 15 hours childcare. – This will be available at PTM.
- From September 2024, the 15 hours childcare offer will be expanded to eligible working parents in England with children between 9 and 23 months old. This will not be offered at PTM.
- From September 2025, eligible working parents in England with children between 9 months up to school age will have access to 30 hours childcare. At PTM we will be investigating our Two, Three and four year old offer.

Support is also expanding for primary-school aged children –from September 2024, parents are expected to see an expansion in the availability of childcare in their local area before and after school, between 8am and 6pm, also known as ‘wraparound care’. This is already available at PTM and we are working on being able to accept vouchers.

Don’t miss out on getting the support you are entitled to. Visit the Childcare Choices website to check what offer you might be eligible for and sign up to our newsletter to get the latest updates about the childcare support expansion. [Childcare Choices | 30 Hours Childcare, Tax-Free Childcare and More | Help with Costs | GOV.UK](#)

Reminders

Could we please remind parents to be mindful about leaving dogs outside the school gates and surrounding area. These are busy pathways and some children are scared of dogs.

Thank you

A reminder to all parents

Please can you talk to your children about how to behave on the school site before and after school.

- Children should not arrive on school site until 8.40- 8.45 and should leave promptly at the end of the day.
- Children should not be on any school equipment - eg the hill, climbing wall, outdoor gym or the climbing equipment.
- Children should not be playing football or other ball games.
- Children should not be on bikes or scooters
- Children should be careful around each other, smaller children and our parents / visitors on site.
- Children should use kind and polite language to each other and other adults.

If children who walk to and from school without an adult are seen continuously not following these guidelines we will have to ask parents to attend school for drop off and pick up and not leave their children unoccupied.

Many thanks for your understanding.

Staff Information

This half term we have said goodbye to Mrs Kerrigan in the Nursery and will be saying goodbye to Miss Hewitt in Reception just after half term.

We would like to welcome Mrs Taylor to our SEND team. Mrs Taylor is going to be our new Assistant SENDCo and working with Mrs Thurgood. I'm sure you will all help her feel welcome in our school.

We are currently advertising for some new Nursery staff due our Nursery numbers rising. Please let anyone know who you think may be interested.

PTM Governors



Current Vacancies: Parent Governor & Community Governor

Who we are:

The Governing Body currently consists of the Head teacher, 2 Parent Governors and 3 Community Governors. We are a friendly team that work with each other and the staff to ensure the students are able to reach their full potential whilst at Pear Tree Mead. You can find out more about who we are by visiting the school website.

What we do:

The governors are interested in ensuring the pupils at the school get the best, and we work towards this by volunteering in a variety of ways. One of our main duties is to meet as a team to discuss and review school policies and other school business. These meetings take place during the evening several times a term and are either face to face at the school, or via Teams.

Each of us are linked with specific areas and subjects within the school and we monitor these throughout the academic year by communicating with the staff responsible for these areas, and by spending time in school.

We also support the school and pupils in other ways, for example reading with younger students, being present at school events such as assemblies and sports days, and the recruitment of new staff.

What makes a good Governor:

School governors can be employed part time or full time, self-employed, a stay at home parent or retired. Formal qualifications are not necessary, just the ability to work as part of a team, have an interest in how the school runs, and being able to ask questions. Training is provided, and the team are friendly and supportive to new members.

Interested in joining the team:

If you would like more information about being a governor at PTM or are interested in joining the team please contact kate.townsend@peartreemead.essex.sch.uk

Gardeners Needed



Do you have green fingers and enjoy being in the garden?

Do you have a few hours to spare a week to help out?

We are looking for a small group of volunteers (parents or other family) to help out at school to make our school grounds look tidy, kept and beautiful. We have just received some funding for some new adult gardening equipment too!

Volunteers would be asked to

Water and weed pots and plants

Weed areas around the school

Keep the allotment tidy and in good working order

Pot and plant flowers, vegetables and plants

If you would be interested in helping out on a regular basis you would need to be DBS checked.

Please pop into the office and let them know you would be able to help.

We will then get in touch.

School uniform

A reminder that children should attend school every day in the correct uniform.

- Grey bottoms
- Black shoes
- Green jumpers or cardigans
- Ties for Year 3,4,5 and 6
- White shirts
- Black, white or grey socks or tights.
- Green hairbands or bows
- Gingham dresses in the warmer months. These should not be worn with tights, but with white short or long socks.

For more information please see :-

<https://www.peartreemead.essex.sch.uk/about-us/uniform/>

We have some un-named lost property. Please name all items of uniform.

We have second hand uniform for sale if you need any more uniform. Please ask via the FOPTM Facebook page.

Children must be suitably dressed for the winter and have their coat in school every day. Otherwise they may not be able to play outside in the colder months.

Parking

Please can we ask that parents park carefully outside the school. We are encouraging children to try and walk to school as much as possible.

Vaping

It has been reported to us that some parents are vaping on school site. Please be reminded that this is not allowed. Many thanks

Contact Us



Pupils That Matter

If you have any questions or need any more information please contact us.

Please use our communication flow chart to find out who you need to speak to.

More information can be found about staff on our website.

<https://www.peartreemead.essex.sch.uk/about-us/meet-the-team/>

Pear Tree Mead Academy

Harlow

Essex CM18 7BY

01279 836181

For general enquiries please email info@peartreemead.essex.sch.uk

For complaints, concerns, admissions or attendance enquires please email kate.townsend@peartreemead.essex.sch.uk

for support with school payments and breakfast club please contact the school office and they will pass you to Mrs Robinson.

If you wish to email anyone else, please email Mrs Hayton on info@peartreemead.essex.sch.uk and she will pass your email on to them.

Please join our FOPTM Facebook group by searching Friends of Pear Tree Mead for more information about FOPTM events.

Visit us on the web for an Events Calendar and more school information at www.peartreemead.essex.sch.uk

On behalf of myself and all of the staff at Pear Tree Mead we would like to wish you all a happy half term.