



December 2024 Newsletter

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



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

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Message from Mrs Peden, Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we approach the end of the Autumn term, I would like to take this opportunity to reflect on the wonderful achievements and experiences we have reached together as a school community this term.

It has been a busy and exciting term, filled with new learning, inspiring activities, and memorable moments. Our pupils have shown incredible dedication and enthusiasm in everything they do, and it has been a joy to see them grow both academically and personally. From class makes projects, class Christmas trees to festive events and parties, their hard work and creativity have shone through, and I could not be prouder of them. Our Pre school, Nursery and Year 1 Christmas performances were a joy to watch last week. All the staff and children worked so hard. Thank you to our visitors for coming to watch and show their support for the children. It was lovely to see so many families visit our Christmas Bazaar last weekend. Thank you to our amazing team of FOPTM parents who stepped up to help out. Thank you to Jukes for donating the snow globe, which certainly was enjoyed by all. Thank you to our Year 6 children who took the time to make a game and then come and run it for the event.

I would like to extend my thanks to all our staff, who have worked tirelessly to support and inspire our children, and to you, our parents and carers, for your continued partnership and support. Together, we are helping to create a positive and nurturing environment for our children to thrive.

As we head into the holiday season, I hope you all have the opportunity to enjoy some well-deserved rest and quality time with your loved ones. This mornings Year 6 church service certainly helps us all get into the festive spirit. We look forward to welcoming everyone back in the New Year, ready for more exciting adventures and learning opportunities in 2025. We have some really exciting opal news coming next term..... Please make sure your children are ready for this with wellies!

OPAL update of photos <https://sway.cloud.microsoft/1ecqOpjOfC6F9BVR?ref=Link>

Wishing you all a joyful and peaceful Christmas break!

Mrs Peden

Headteacher



1 - A reminder that if anyone mentions PTM to Jukes during a sale that they will give the school £500.

Parent Questionnaire

Attached are the links to our parent questionnaire results and our action plan based on the comments. Thank you for the lovely comments that we received as part of the comments sections and for those of you who have made suggestions to help us improve the school for your children. Please have a read to see what we have plans to do based on your comments. Some of them have already been addressed via the link.

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

[Questionnaire for Parents.pdf](#)

What's coming up next term?

6th January - Whole School Start of Term

6th January - Current Pre School & Nursery Start

8th January - New nursery Children Staggered Start

13th January - Launch of cross PCLC primary schools reading competition and Spelling Bee

20th January - Charity Day - Wear PJs, bring a blankets and a toy animal for HEART charity (Local Harlow Animal charity) - £1 donation to charity

22nd January - Young Voices - Year 5 & 6 who have signed up

23rd January - **Siblings photo day, and Individuals for Nursery, Pre School and anyone new to the school – Whole school Before school group shots for anyone who would like to attend 8am - small hall – for any sibling groups with children who do not attend PTM. (morning time change)**

31st January - Inset Day

3rd February - Children's Mental Health Week

5th February - **CANCELLED-FOPTM disco (after school) -CANCELLED**

10th February - PCLC Spelling Bee - Yr R to 6 - Round 1 - in class

11th February - Online Safety Day

14th February - Year 2 - Great Fire of London Visitor

14th February - Pre School - Colour Day

14th February - Last day of term - Normal Finish Time

14th February - Preloved uniform sale and book give away – 3pm – small hall

24th February - Whole School Start of Term

New Spelling Scheme Year 2-6

As a school, we are starting a new spelling scheme and therefore the way we will be learning and assessing the spellings is going to slightly change. Each week, the spelling list will have a rule that they follow. Your child will be tested on the weeks spelling, before seeing them. They will then learn the rule and complete work in class, as well as having time to practise at school and home. The following week, they will then be tested on the same spellings again to see if there has been improvement. Also, inside your child's homework book there is a list of statutory year group words. Please look at these with your child, so they are familiarised with them, as these are the words we are expecting to see in their writing.

What's been going on this half term?

Thank you

A massive thank you to Harlow Police and Kids Inspire Charity - who have both donated lots of presents for some children at PTM. Some of our young carers and nominated families received presents and food parcels for over the Christmas break.



Congrats

A big well done to the staff who have been working with the PTI - Prince's Trust Institute on part of their professional development. We were really pleased to have received our PTI Award.



PSHE Update

In our recent parent survey parents said they they were unaware of what PSHE activities the children took part in. Attached is the schools overview for this term.

[PSHE newsletter slides Aut 2024.docx](#)

Behaviour updates and Reminders

Behaviour - Update

Did you know that at PTM we deliver the Zones Curriculum?

What are the zones?

The Zones are a systematic, cognitive behavioural approach used to teach self-regulation by categorising all the different ways we feel and states of alertness we experience into four concrete coloured zones.

The Red zone is used to describe extremely heightened states of alertness and intense emotions. A person may be elated or experiencing anger, rage, explosive behaviour, devastation, or terror when in the Red zone.

The Yellow zone is also used to describe a heightened state of alertness and elevated emotions; however one has more control when they are in the yellow zone. A person may be experiencing stress, frustration, anxiety, excitement, silliness, the wiggles, or nervousness when in the Yellow zone.

The Green zone is used to describe a calm state of alertness. A person may be described as happy, focused, content, or ready to learn when in the Green zone. This is the zone where optimal learning occurs.

The Blue zone is used to describe low states of alertness and down feelings such as when one feels sad, tired, sick, or bored.

By addressing underlying deficits in emotional and sensory regulation, executive functioning, and social cognition, the framework is designed to help move pupils towards independent regulation. It's a way of individuals understanding their behaviour and emotions, and how this can impact on themselves and those around them. This will support their learning of what tools they can use to manage their feelings and states. Examples of 'tools' include, but are not limited to, fidget tools, respite time, quiet space, weighted blankets, sand timers/glitter bottles, 'think 5', positive thoughts and physical activities.

Over the Christmas break, you may wish to use the above zones to support your child through all the excitement!

Kindness week and Odd sock day

In this past term **KINDNESS** week took place (11th - 15th November 2024), where we were thinking about all the things we could do to be kind to one another and 'choosing respect', supporting anti-bullying, and underpinning our school expectations. We launched the week with a special guest, Amy Gair, from the Youth Worker Team, taking assembly on Monday 11th November. This was a great hit with the children, where they learnt a lot about kindness and respect. Following this, children, and adults, were invited **to wear odd socks** to celebrate what makes us unique, we enjoyed seeing all the colourful designs!

The theme of the week this year was '**Choose Respect**' - **making a noise about anti-bullying!** The theme of 'Choose Respect' came about following consultation with teachers and pupils by the Anti-Bullying Alliance which coordinates Anti-Bullying Week every year in England and Wales. Schools wanted a theme that empowered everyone to do something positive to counter the harm and hurt that bullying can cause. As a school we decided to take this one step further by re-naming the week **KINDNESS** week, where we looked in detail about kindness, what this means and how it is shown. Children completed tasks in class, took part in PSHE sessions and demonstrated kindness throughout the week and beyond.

Kindness Week reminded everyone, whether it's in school, at home, in the community or online, to make positive choices and 'choose respect!' We encouraged one another to take part in random acts of kindness across the school, what this looks like and how it makes us feel.

Throughout the week, and across this past half term, children learnt about combating and managing bullying and unkind behaviours, and how this is combatable through aspects

of kindness. We also be covered concepts of consent e.g., who owns their bodies. We took part in many practical and discussion-based activities which were complimented by books read aloud to classes.

We really enjoyed the week and learnt a lot!

Thank you

Thank you to one of our parents who has made up some new pots for outside the main office. They look lovely. They are even in house colours





SPORT AT PTM

BOCCIA

On Friday 8th November, some of our year 4 pupils tried their hand at a new sport called Boccia at a sports tournament at Mark Hall Academy. Boccia is a sport similar to boules which involves players rolling a ball as close as possible to the 'jack'. The children picked up this new sport quickly and performed well during the tournament.





RUGBY

The year 6's participated in a PCLC tag rugby tournament after school at Passmores. This was the first cross school tournament between the PCLC schools this year. The children performed amazingly and won the tournament! Well done to all involved. Thank you to Jukes Estate agent for sponsoring our new kit.



BASKETBALL

Six enthusiastic Year 4 pupils were selected to represent our school at a basketball festival, competing against other schools. They showed great teamwork and determination, putting in tremendous effort throughout the event. Most importantly, they had an amazing time and made us all proud with their positive attitude and sportsmanship!



[The Two Johns Online Safety Workshop](#)

We were very lucky to join the other PCLC primary schools on the TWO JOHN'S ONLINE SAFETY WORKSHOP. The workshops were all very informative and the children enjoyed

them. After school staff joined in a training session and then there was a parent session after. Thank you to those of you who attended. The feedback was very positive all round.









Passmores Peer Support

We have been really lucky this term to have 12 Passmores students join us at 8am every week to read with our Year 4 children. This will be continuing after the holidays as well. Some more children will be invited to attend this. Thank you to these students for volunteering their time. We invited them to come along for a Christmas dinner to say thank you.





Passmores After School Clubs

We have been invited to attend half termly after school clubs at Passmores. This half term was African drumming. 4 Year 5 children attended and then took part in the Passmores show last week. We were really proud of them performing in front of such a large audience.

Next half term is a computing club. 6 children who have shown real promise with their computing skills have been chosen to attend.





Christmas Competitions

We held our annual Class Christmas Tree Competition this month. Look at all the amazing trees the children have made. This years theme was Christmas Films. The winner this year is Willow.

We also held our Christmas Creations Competition. Classes are given £20 each to buy resources. They create Christmas items to sell. Our winning class was Lavender with a profit of £121.

Well done to all the children and staff who worked hard on their Christmas creations and trees. Thank you to those parents who brought their children's amazing creations.



















Breakfast Club

In breakfast club the children decorated the Small Hall Christmas tree, well done, it looks wonderful.







Pre School

On the 18th November Saplings class walked to the local post box to post their Father Christmas letters with their grown ups, some of us wore Christmas hats and headbands. It was lots of fun!







On 9th December Saplings class performed their Christmas sing along to their grown ups. They sang Dancing Christmas Tree, Twinkle, twinkle Christmas Star, When Santa got stuck up the Chimney, Little snowflake, Jingle, jingle little bell and We wish you a merry Christmas. They were little super stars!







Nursery

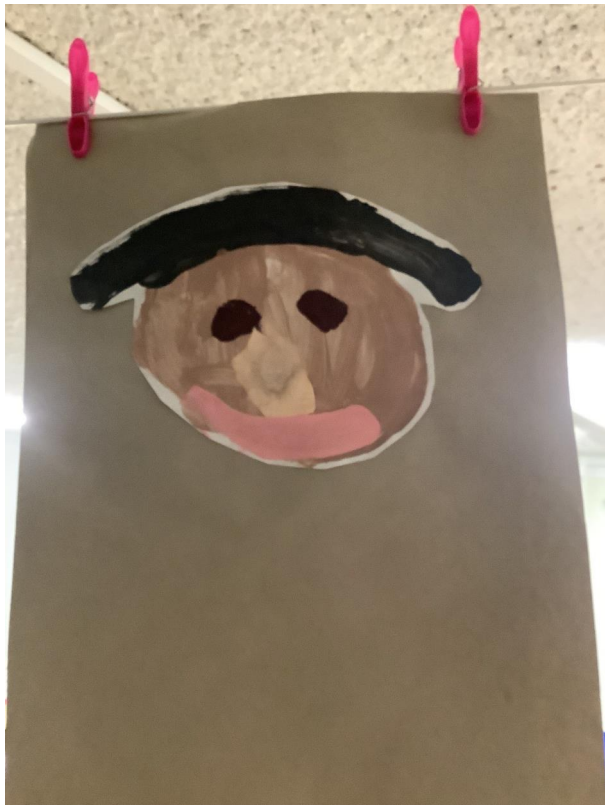
This term Nursery continued 'All About Me' topic, where the children were able to share things about themselves during carpet sessions. The children enjoyed taking part in creative activities such as painting a self-portrait, where they were encouraged to look in a mirror and identify their key features, including their skin colour.

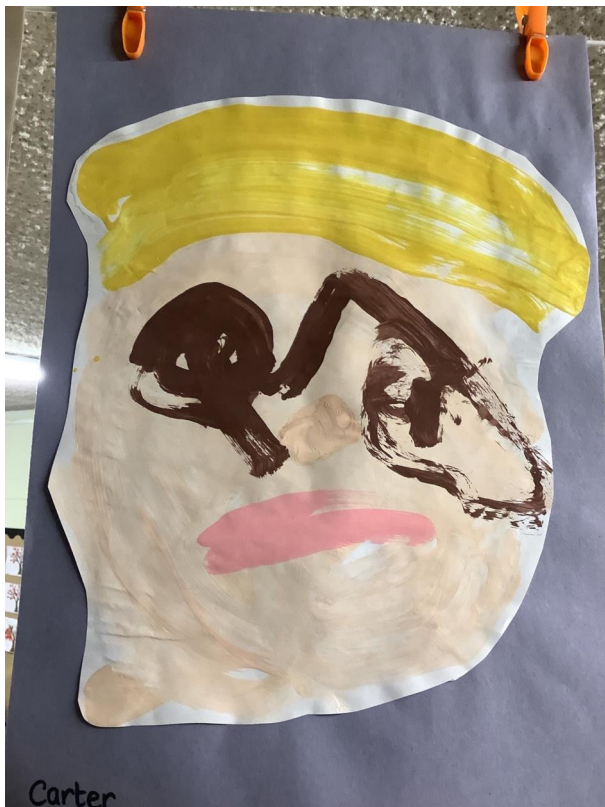
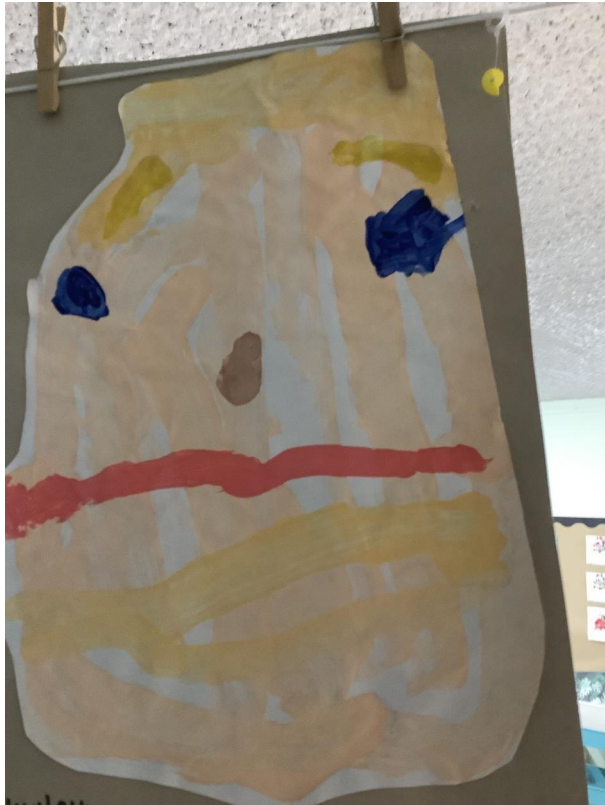
In Aspen class one of our children celebrated 'Name Day' as part of their culture. As a class, we celebrated this and shared with the children a simple video explaining this celebration. We also have been learning simple greetings in different languages.

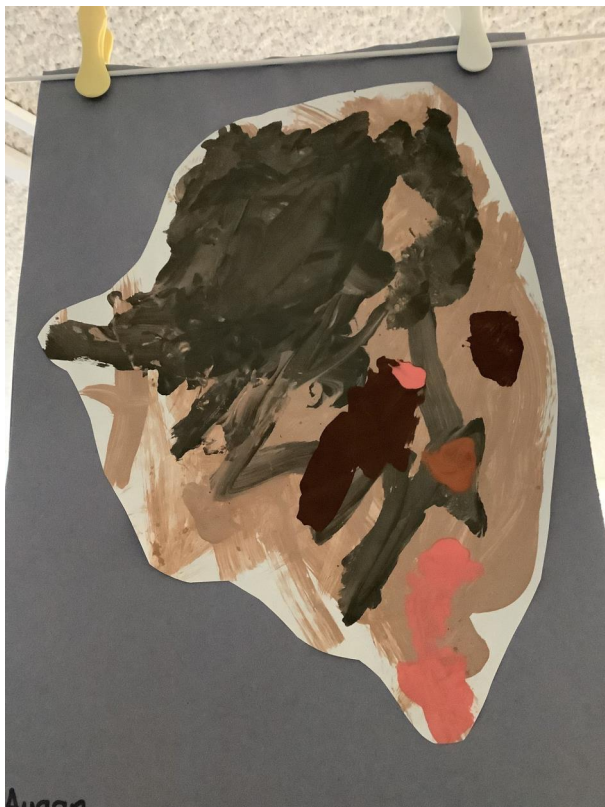
We were very proud of the nursery children in their Christmas singalong. Thank you to our parents for coming along to watch.













During kindness week, we spoke to the children about the importance of using kind hands. We discussed different ways we can show kindness. The children were even set a 'kindness' challenge on Tapestry to take part in at home.

In Maths, we have been learning numbers 0-5, the children had a go at 'Number splat'. They were encouraged to identify and find the number.

We have been exploring instrumental sounds in our Phonics sessions. The children will be making their own sensory musical shakers using different materials to take home.

The children had lots of fun taking part in our Christmas sing-along, they did so well. Well done, Nursery!

Year 4 Art Gallery

On Friday was the year 4 art gallery. The art gallery was an opportunity for the year 4s to show off all of the work that they have produced in their experience lessons since the start of the year. We have been looking at and practicing four different artist types; painters, sculptors, architects and designers. The afternoon ran really well and the children loved showing off their hard work to their families. Thanks to all who came it was lovely to see so many of you.















Year 4 Santa Dash

On Thursday, the year 4 children participated in a 'Santa dash' the children looked amazing in their non-uniform/ Christmas clothes. The children ran up to a total of 1 mile!





Year 3 Stone Age Day

Year 3 had an incredible Stone Age Day! Dressed in fantastic Stone Age costumes, we explored the evolution of humans by comparing bones and skulls, uncovering their differences through time. We became archaeologists for the day, digging for hidden treasures, crafted tools, and expressed our creativity through cave painting. To top it all off, we tried our hand at archery, experiencing a key survival skill of the Stone Age. It was a fantastic journey back in time that everyone thoroughly enjoyed!











Christmas parties

Every year group had a Christmas party in the last week of term. Lots of fun was had by all. There was lots of dancing, games and party food. Thank you to our parents who provided party food from the list for the children.

Christmas Performances





Christmas Dinner

We held two Christmas dinners this year and over 400 children enjoyed a roast turkey lunch with all the trimmings. ISS our catering company provided crackers for all the children too. Staff and Governors served the children their lunch, whilst festive music played, and then SLT and the governors served the staff their Christmas Dinner.

Rockband - Rock Steady

We were treated to 10 rock bands performances last week. All of the children from Rock Steady have really improved and enjoyed putting on three shows for the children and parents. Well done to those children













Year 6 Church Service

Our Year 6 children sang beautifully this morning at St Stephens Church. Well done to them all for reminding us of the first Christmas and helping us reflect on the true meaning of Christmas.















In Other News

New Club Timetable

Please click on the link below to see the new club activities for Treehouse Club.

[Clubs Timetable.pdf](#)

Reminders

Applications

For anyone that will have a reception starter for next September the closing date for applications is Wednesday 15th January. Please see the link below for the admissions part of the website.

www.essex.gov.uk/admissions

Support for Families

Holidays and festivals can be special times for families. We also recognise that they can be very stressful and anxious times for others. Please see the below a helpline for any domestic abuse support that you may want to seek. Please remember that there are always people out there to support you and if you would like more support and advice for the school do not hesitate to contact Mrs Arnould or Mrs Thurgood.

Essex Domestic Abuse Helpline: 0330 333 7444 or visit the Compass website on <https://www.essexcompass.org.uk/>

FOPTM



FOPTM hope that you all enjoyed the events we have run and organised for you all this term and what a busy term it has been! We started off with the Halloween disco where the kids had an absolute blast. Thank you to anyone who attended, we raised an amazing £1,425.42 our best total yet. FOPTM then got all festive. We had our production photo sales for saplings, nursery and year one. We still have photos on sale so don't worry if you weren't able to buy a copy you can buy them in the New Year. Anyone who has ordered extra photos they will be given out when the children return after Christmas. apologies we weren't able to give you them before Christmas, but we have been extremely busy the last few weeks. We hope to provide the total raised soon. A lot of our members who volunteer and help at our events took a advantage of their vouchers and got front row seats to their children's productions. If you are interested in having a front row seat at your child next production, please get in touch to see how you can help us to earn your rewards.

The children also got super creative with their class creations and designs from class fundraising. Well done to Lavender for being the class winners this year, an amazing £742 was raised through this so massive well done to the children and PTM staff. All class raising amount won't be paid until the New Year so watch this space to find out how much we was able to raise this year.

Our Christmas presents sale was a massive hit this year with us selling out of presents. We hope on Christmas day you love what your children have chosen to buy you. Each and every child took plenty of time and thought to choose in the perfect present for their loved one. We can announce we made a whopping £739.44 from our present sale, so thank you For

allowing your children to take part in this. Our next present sale is all mothers and others present sale for Mother's Day. Please keep your eyes peeled for more details in the next coming weeks.

Did you also know you can help us raise funds through easy fundraising? This year for some of you that have simply joined easy fundraising we have already raised £15.93. so please do consider joining easy fundraising. It's at no cost to yourselves. All you need to do is sign up and download the app.

Now last, but not least our Christmas Bazaar! What an amazing day we hope anyone who came along had loads of fun and won some amazing prizes. A massive thank you to Jukes estate agents for funding the snow globe. Also a massive thanks to Santa for coming to Pear Tree Mead we hope that that he comes again to see us next year. A whopping £1672.49 was raised. A massive thank you to everyone that helped run this event. Without volunteers we just couldn't make things like this possible so thank you.

We hope you all have a wonderful Christmas break and look forward to seeing you in the New Year.



Proud sponsors of:

Jukes Estate Agents Harlow are delighted to announce a fantastic referral scheme which can help raise much needed funds for Pear Tree Mead Academy



If you, or anyone you know in Harlow or surrounding areas are thinking of selling your property, Jukes Estate Agents Harlow will:

1. Value it FREE OF CHARGE
2. Sell it with NO AGENCY FEES
3. Market it better than ANY other agent
4. Donate £500 to The School on completion of sale.

How good are we? Ask Executive Head Emma Bloomfield.

We sold her house in 10 days and for full asking price. When it completes, the school will be £500 richer! So call us today.

01279 295524



2 - Thank you our amazing team of helpers who make so many experiences for the children.



























Attendance for Autumn Term

Well done to all of the children on achieving 100% attendance for this term. Your name has been added to a leaf and then onto the attendance tree. The attendance will reset for the new Spring term. Coming to school every day and on time is really important. This gives children the very best opportunity to be successful in all areas of their future.

Remembrance Sale

The Poppy appeal sale was a real success, we managed to sell all of the items that we had been given. Thank you to everyone who donated.

Staff Information

We are pleased to let you know that we have two new staff starting in January. Miss Lee and Miss Thurgood will be joining the LSA team. We would also like to let you know that Mrs March left our LSA team this year. We wish her all the best. We also have two relief LSAs starting with us, Miss Wilson and Mrs Wagstaff. I'm sure you will all join us in making our new staff feel welcome.

Parent Information Links

Measles Information - due to our recent outbreak - PHE have asked us to share this advice with you.

[VID-1735 - 3-Hospital Visit.jpg](#)

[Measles - how infectious is it carousel GIF.gif](#)

[Measles-2024.gif](#)

[non porcine MMR \(1\).png](#)

E-Scooter Information - [DS24 8406 e-Scooter A5 leaflet V3.pdf](#)

Safety Online over the Holidays - [Top-Tips-for-Safety-Over-the-Festive-Season-PDF \(1\).pdf](#)

Support over Christmas

How to help ease overstimulation during the Winter holidays

Christmas can be an overwhelming experience for children and adults with sensory sensitivities. There are ways you can steer through the disruption and keep the Christmas magic alive.

The [BBC's Tiny Happy People website](#) has got a Santa's sleigh full of useful tips from both parents and experts to help manage the overload.

Christmas tips for autistic people and their families

Christmas is a time of joy and celebration, but it can be difficult for some autistic people.

The National Autistic Society (NAS) has compiled a list of autism-friendly tips for the festive period.

Visit the [NAS Tips page](#) to read their autism-friendly Christmas tips.

Christmas and mental health

Find tips on how to cope and ways to support someone else.

Take a look at the [Christmas and mental health Mind page](#).

Santa on Zoom!

Santa has learnt how to use Zoom!

Book a Zoom call and get all the magic of a grotto visit without having to leave your home. The children get to speak to Santa directly from his North Pole office.

Visit [Santa on Zoom](#) to find out more.

SNAP Christmas Survival Guide

Step into Christmas with SNAP's Survival Guide! It's full of helpful hints, tips and strategies to support you and your family through the festive season.

View the [SNAP Christmas survival guide](#)

Phoebe's Festive Favourites: A FREE Digital Sensory Show

This is a magazine-style children's show delivered in six episodes. Loveable puppet Phoebe shares her favourite elements of Christmas with the audience. Each episode features a song and sensory activities to be facilitated live.

Offered entirely for free UK-wide throughout December and January. This show also incorporates key word signing and will be available in captioned and BSL formats.

Register at [Christmas for kids on Eventbrite](#) or [email Christmas for Kids](#) for more information

PTM Governors



PTM Governors

Pear Tree Mead Governors

Who we are:

Our friendly team of governors is a mix of parent and community governors, all with an interest in education and in particular what goes on at Pear Tree Mead.

This term we welcome two new members to our team, our new Parent Governor Lynne Pinchen and our new Community Governor Laura Moore.

What we do:

Our main role as governors is to monitor various school priorities to ensure that the right decisions and actions are being made to give our students the educational experience they deserve.

We do this through visiting school, speaking with staff and students, volunteering at events, watching assemblies and attending termly meetings, where we discuss what's been going on and what the upcoming plans are for the school. Our meetings are either via Teams or face to face at the school. We also are given the opportunity to do training in specific areas regarding governance and education. This term all our governors have completed their Safeguarding training through the National College.

At least once a term we try to do something nice for the staff. This term we left some treats in the staffroom to say thank you for their hard work this very busy term.

We also try to meet informally as a team over coffee and cake.

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, all you need is the ability to work as part of a team, an interest in how the school runs, and be able to ask questions. Training is provided, and the team are friendly and supportive to new members.

Vacancies or would like to find out more about the Governors:

We are always looking for people interested in joining the team as Parent or Community Governors. If you are interested in becoming a Governor or would like some more information on the role. please contact kate.townsend@pearttreemead.com

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.com

For complaints, concerns, admissions or attendance enquires please email kate.townsend@peartreemead.com

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.com and she will pass your email on to them.

We do not issue teachers emails out to parents - if you wish to speak to any member of staff, please do this on the door, come round to the main office or email Mrs Hayton or Mrs Townsend and they will put you in touch.

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 thank you all for your lovely gifts and to wish you all Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We look forward to welcoming you all back on Monday 6th January. Mrs Peden



MERRY
Christmas
& HAPPY NEW YEAR