



October 2025 newsletter

[Pear Tree Mead Academy October 2025 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.

- **Message from the Headteacher.**
- **What's coming up next term?**
- **FOPTM update**

- **What's been going on this half term?**
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- **Reminders**
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Message from Mrs Peden, Headteacher

Dear Parents

What a lovely first half term we have had at Pear Tree Mead. All our new children have settled in well into Reception, Nursery and Pre school and we have welcomed lots of new children to other years across the school too.

As usual its been a busy half term, please read below to see what we have been up to. Highlights have been Kingswood for the year 6 children, Sports Day for KS2, Thorndon Wood for Year 2, our annual trip to the church for our Harvest Assembly and much much more. It was also lovely to see so many parents either face to face or virtually at our parents evening. I know teachers enjoyed talking to you to share how your children have settled into their new classes and the targets set for the rest of the year.

Thank you to the 200 parents who completed the parents questionnaire, We will be looking into some of the actions and results next term. We will communicate these results and our planned actions through the December newsletter.

A big thank you and well done to parents and children who have been getting used to our new opening and closing times. A reminder that the school doors open at 8.40am and the school day ends at 3.15pm.

Next half term is usually our busiest of the year with the festivities of Christmas starting. All children will be making Christmas crafts to sell to family, having Christmas parties and having a Christmas dinner (which will need to be booked). Some year groups have Christmas performances, others have parent sessions. Please see below what your children will be getting up to. All events are shared in the newsletter below, on parentmail events, on class curriculum letters and on our school website calendar.

We are looking forward to an exciting FOPTM change this year. The Christmas Bazaar will be held on a Saturday afternoon. All the usual events will be taking place - Year 6 games, Santa's grotto, Games and things to buy, food and drink and much much more. Please come along and support the school on Saturday 14th December 12pm - 3pm.

We hope you have a restful half term and we look forward to seeing you on the 4th November.

Mrs Peden

What's coming up next term?

4th November - Children back to school - Whole school

7th November - FOPTM Halloween Disco (after school) - Whole school at different times.

11th - 15th November - School Kindness Week

12th November - Odd Sock Day – whole school

12th November – Two Johns Workshops – throughout the day for children – online safety.

12th November – WORKSHOP FOR ALL PARENTS – online safety 8pm – online with ‘The 2 Johns’ - please see link below to find out more information about this.

13th November – World Kindness Day - Whole school

21st November - Induction meeting - 2pm - New Nursery parents

25th November - PCLC Rugby tournament - after school Passmores - Team TBD

28th November - Year 4 Gallery of work for parents (1.30 - 3.00pm)

29th November - Inset day – school closed to pupils - Whole school

1st Advent event starts

4th and 5th December - Donation days for Christmas Bazaar - Tombola and Teddies - to be entered into a prize draw.

6th December - PANTO – Beauty and the Beast – (External Company) (pm) - EY and KS1 children to watch

6th December – House Reward - winning house to be announced via parentmail

9th December - Pre school Singalong at 11am to 12pm – Pre school parents to watch.

10th December - Year 1 Nativity at 9.30am - 10.30am - Elm and Fir parents to watch – tickets will be issued.

12th December - Nursery Singalong at 9.30am - 10.15am Ash and Aspen parents to watch – tickets will be issued.

12th December – Year 5 Drumming at Passmores – 6pm - For Year 5 children that have been chosen. More info has already been sent to those children.

12th December - Rockband Assembly for invited parents

13th December - Non uniform day for donations for the Bazaar – whole school - chocolate or a bottle of pop

SATURDAY 14th December - FOPTM Christmas Bazaar – 12 - 3pm – all invited to attend. Year 6 children will be running games.

16th and 17th December - FOPTM Christmas Present Sale - £2.50 a present to buy

17th December – EY (Aspen and Reception) and KS1 Christmas Lunch - Christmas clothes to be worn all day

18th December - Nursery and Pre-school last day. Pre School Graduation for those children moving up. Nursery class party today.

19th December - Christmas Dinner KS2 – Christmas clothes to be worn all day

19th December - Yr. 6 children attend Church (rehearsal) (am) - local community invited - am

20th December - Year 6 Church Service at church. Year 4 and 5 to watch - 9.30am start. Parents of **Year 6 are invited to attend.**

Christmas Parties this week – Dates TBC - all children to come in party clothes for the day. - Food sign up lists will be put up.

20th December - Adult helper and FOPTM thank you 11am – 11.30am - staffroom.

20th December – End of Term at 1.30pm

20th December – Preloved uniform sale and book give away – 1.30pm – small hall.

6th January - Start of term - Whole school

The Two Johns Workshop - for parents, staff and children

12th November – WORKSHOP FOR ALL PARENTS – online safety 8pm – online with ‘The 2 Johns’

Parents 20:00-21:30 - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88654601463> - zoom link

Please attend this important zoom call as this workshop contains information to support / protect your children online.

The 2 Johns are both qualified Police Trainers and EST E-Safety Training offer a large range of bespoke training options.

They are both CEOP Ambassador trainers and are qualified to deliver Think You Know (TUK) training courses. They trained every Youth Officer within Essex Police and qualified them to run E Safety assemblies in schools throughout Essex.

They have delivered many presentations within schools and specialise in Parent and Teacher events. The feedback for their sessions has been outstanding and they would be happy to provide details of the schools they have worked within so as you may seek up to date testimonials.

They can be found on Facebook at 'EST E Safety Training' where you will see the numerous 5 star reviews and recommendations they have received.

Over the past year 'The 2 Johns' have delivered their Walk Online Roadshow™ to in excess of 100000 young people and the feedback received has been continually outstanding and over the past few years 'The 2 Johns' have been keynote speakers at many professional events sharing their expertise around all issues of Online Child Sexual Exploitation.

[Primary Online Events - eSafety Training](#) - Information about the training we are receiving as children, staff and parents

[Parent/Carer Area - eSafety Training](#) - the online resources that they share

www.esafetytraining.org

Find them on Facebook EST e-safety Training

Parents 20:00-21:30 - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88654601463>

Please see the attached joining instructions.

[On Line Joining Instructions Parents Only.docx](#)

What's been going on this half term?

Year 6 - Kingswood

On the 23rd of September, many of our Year 6 pupils spent an amazing week at Kingswood in Norfolk. They excelled in different challenges and adventures and certainly had fun being away from home. They also had a wonderful afternoon at the beach and travelled to Blakeney Point to visit the seals. We are all so proud of how the children pushed themselves out of their comfort zones and faced a lot of fears, as well as making memories that will last a lifetime. The children then performed their Kingswood assembly to their parents and the year 5 children and parents were invited. Year 5 children can now book a place for September 2025.

There were a small group of children who did not attend Kingswood. They stayed at school for the week and took part in lots of fun activities.

Below are the links to the photos from Kingswood and Non Kingswood week.

Arrival and Day 1 - <https://sway.cloud.microsoft/yqzROv7NExfofQxA?ref=Link>

Day 2 - <https://sway.cloud.microsoft/CGBh0vcBLMM5UAxQ?ref=Link>

Day 3 - <https://sway.cloud.microsoft/OGuUAIBO0le9Xf77?ref=Link>

Day 4 - <https://sway.cloud.microsoft/F2xV5f0tJjx6zGcn?ref=Link>

Day 5 - <https://sway.cloud.microsoft/x6qF3l8Vmlw8GmWy?ref=Link>

Non Kingswood photos - <https://sway.cloud.microsoft/Cu5tIDwh9rKRftsD?ref=Link>

Charities

Thank you to our school councillors for collecting information from all the classes about our charities for this year.

There were so many amazing ideas and suggestions.

It has been decided

Autumn Term Charity - Harvest Collection - for Harlow Food bank [Harlow Foodbank | Feeding Local People in Crisis](#) - Food donations have come in and have now been collected for the foodbank.

Spring Term Charity - the children decided on a local animal charity - HEART (Harlow Essex Animal Rescue Team) [HEART \(heartrescue.co.uk\)](https://heartrescue.co.uk) - PJ day - wear PJ and bring a blanket and animal toy to school, will read some animal stories whilst all snuggled up in warm PJs - 20th Jan 2025 - £1 donation

Summer Term Charity - the children decided on a local children's charity - PACT for Autism (offering support children and families with Autism in West Essex) [Autism Support | PACT For Autism | England](#) - CRAZY HAIR DAY - £1 donation - 16th May 2025

School Lunches

We have been working with ISS over the last few months to improve the school dinners for children at PTM. This has included a parent questionnaire and a school council questionnaire.

As part of the feedback there have been some improvements made

- a new look counter top and serving dishes,

- new salad bar layout,
- flavoured water station, a
- a healthy snack system for Ks2 children pre eating their food,
- fun special menu
- a voting station
- and then a taster sessions for parents and children during parents evening.

The feedback from staff and children has been good and there has been improvements in uptake too. Children and parents all enjoyed the new tasters of the menu that will start after half term - please see the school website for the new menu,

There has also been a request to look into supplying Halal chicken - we are still looking into this and will get back to you soon.











Reception Karate Workshop

The Reception children had an opportunity to do a Karate Workshop with Karate Harlow & Chelmsford, Dan the instructor showed the children Karate moves and let them put them into practice. The children enjoyed the karate workshop. They were super listeners and enjoyed learning different karate skills. Sensei Dan also ran an assembly for KS1 and KS2 children, which they really enjoyed. Thank you to Dan from Karate Harlow & Chelmsford

Sports Day

Last month, The KS2 children had their sports day! For the first time, the entirety of KS2 had their sports day in one day, which was a success. The children participated in races, and a variety of field events.

Well done to the children for their efforts in sports day. You were all superstars.





















Year 2 Trip

Year 2 went on a fantastic trip to Thorndon wood country park. We had so much fun dressed as pirates, exploring the wood, building a huge ship, burying treasure and making maps, we even got to light our own fires! We had such a brilliant day team building together, what a great way to kick start our school year!







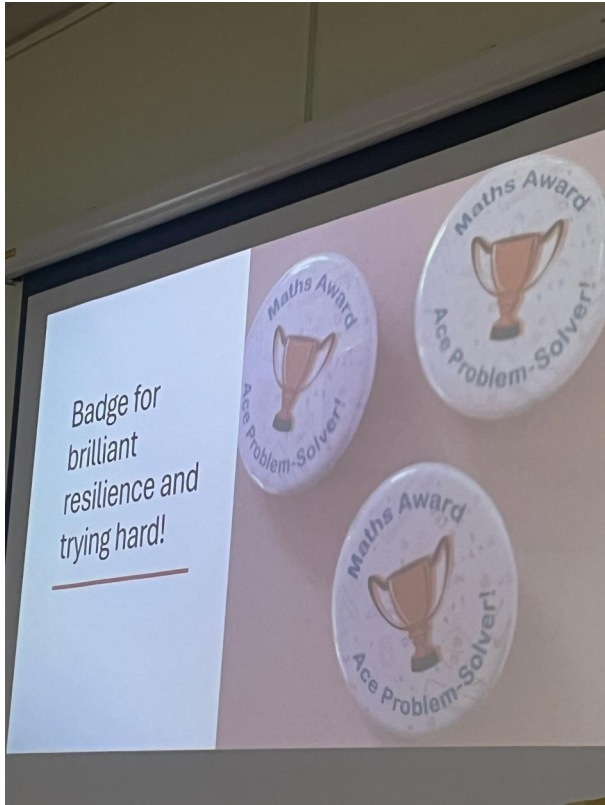


Maths Day

On Wednesday 16th October our pupils took part in Maths Day, which saw the launch of Times Tables Rock Stars in a fun assembly to start the day! There was a big focus on using problem-solving strategies and on building resilience. Our pupils really enjoyed the fun activities that were planned and we are looking forward to seeing more of their problem-solving skills in lessons throughout the year.







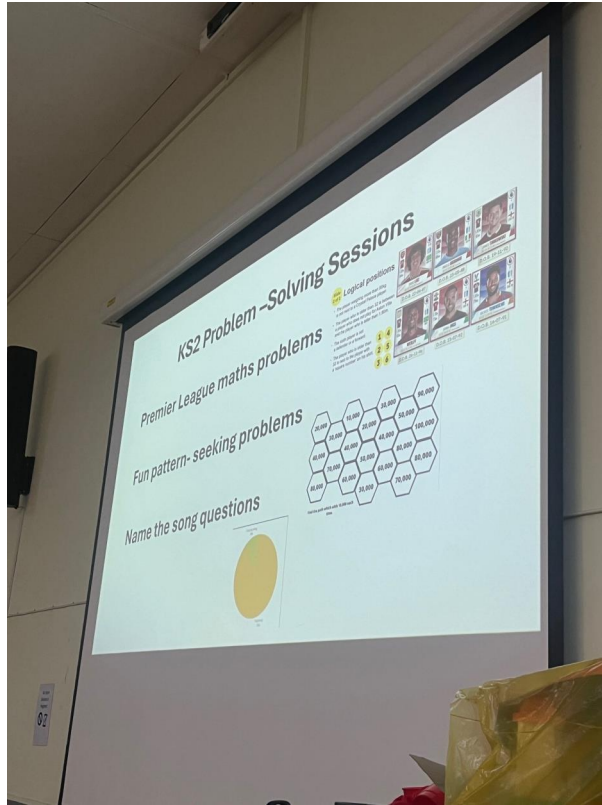
Remember to explain how you solved each problem.
Use STEM sentences and checklists to help you!

STEM Sentences:

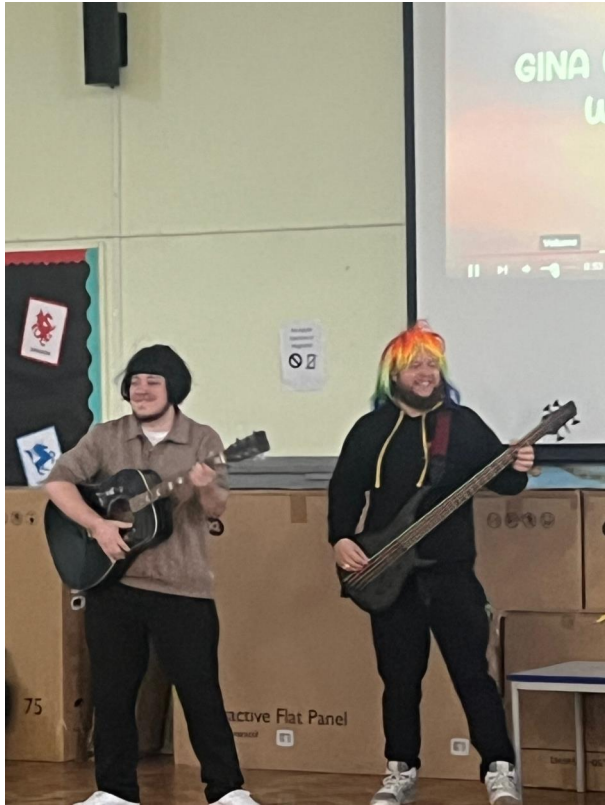
- I think from that... so...
- I started by...
- I checked by... I decided to... because...
- I noticed that... I wondered why...
- The pattern I noticed was... I used the inverse of...
- I used the fact that... I was systematic because I...

My checklist for problem solving

My first steps	Things to think about...	How successful was I?
What is the problem asking me to do?	Are there different ways to solve the problem?	Does my answer make sense? How do I know?
Have I seen problems before that look like this one?	Should I think about solving this problem in a different way, or should I stick with this plan?	Is there any way that I can check my answer?
What mathematics might help me to solve this problem?	Has my teacher shown me anything which might help me here?	Am I sure I have answered the question? (Re-read the problem and the solution to make sure)
What information in the problem is important?		Would another pupil understand my workings out? (You could ask a friend to check.)
		Can I explain to someone else what I did and why I did it?







Year 4

Oak class have been learning about electricity and circuits as part of their science unit. This week, we made a whole class circuit using classroom objects as conductors and insulators to explore how they work!







On Tuesday 22nd October 2024, the whole of Year 4 took part in a special Junk Modelling Day as part of our Experience topic 'We are.....'. This topic looks at a range of art media and invites the children to experience them, including painting and designing. This particular day focused on both the design and sculptor areas of our topic. The children each decided what animal they wanted to make and then designed this out of the various items that had been donated, recording these in their DT booklets. We then used these to create our designs, first making the frame of our sculptor, before using paper mache and finally painting our finished product. This was a wonderful day and the children worked extremely hard on these pieces. Thank you to the parents for donating these items and we look forward to inviting you into school to see the finished products next half term.











Great Open Door Assembly

Thank you to Great Open Door for coming in to do 2 assemblies for us. The children love the puppets and singing. This year the theme was all around being different and how we should celebrate our diversity and not to try and change ourselves to be the same as others. Thank you to some of our Year 5 children who helped out during both shows.









Pre School All About Me Stay and Play session

On Tuesday 22nd October Saplings invited their grown ups in to their All About Me Stay and Play session. They took part in the following activities, decorating a face biscuit, creating a family picture using sponges dipped in paint, smelling activity, touch activity and creating a face made out of pasta. Everyone had lots of fun and enjoyed having our grown ups in school.









Harvest Festival

As you are all aware, this month we have been thinking a lot about Harvest. This began when we started to practice our harvest songs for the assembly in church, including Cauliflowers Fluffy and the Harvest Samba. Each class has been learning these songs and preparing a performance, ready for our visit to St. Stephen's church, which took place this week. During the assembly, Years 3-6 heard from Rev. Darren who spoke to us about the importance of harvest and the difficult, but rewarding job that people like farmers do in order to ensure that we have food on the shelves for us to be able to buy and eat. We also looked at the word 'Harvest' and saw how many words we could make from the letters within that word, that also linked to the assembly e.g. share. Throughout the month, we have been asking the children to bring in a harvest donation that would support local families that do not have enough food to eat. A special thank you to the Nurture Group for making a wonderful display for our donations to be stored until, on Tuesday 22nd October, when a representative from the Harlow Food Bank came to collect all of the donations. We would like to thank all the children for taking part in our Harvest celebrations and for all those that gave a donation to our collection.











Thank you

We would like to thank one of our parents who set up a go fund me page to help fund new our sensory equipment. We were able to add the sensory unit into the room. Thank you to everyone who donated. The children are really benefitting from using the space.









Thank you

Thank you to the volunteers at Wincanton for helping clear some of our walk ways. We are excited to announce that they are currently working on some drawing for our new water system as part of our opal project.



Displays around the school

We have updated some display boards around the school, I think you will agree that they are looking great.





FOPTM Update



FOPTM hope that your children have had a great first half term. We were able to welcome our new reception starters with our welcome packs as well as having a coffee morning. It was really lovely to see some new faces come along for a cuppa and a chat. We're considering of doing another one in the new year so watch out for our announcements. Not to forget our class fundraising project! Firstly a massive thank you to the PTM staff for helping the children get creative with their designs. But also a massive thank you to anyone who bought any items, our estimated commission raised is £552 but this will be confirmed in the new year. We're expecting your orders to come in over the next few weeks. So It's been a fairly quiet one for us but there has been loads of planning and organising going on behind the scenes because next half term is one of our busiest of the year!!!

7TH NOV - Halloween disco

Tickets are still available on the below link. Ticket sales close on the 6th at 9pm. If you was not able to purchase a ticket or your child decided last minute that they want to go we will also be selling entry on the day before your child's session for £3.00.

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/friends-of-pear-tree-mead/e-vkbrjm>

4TH & 5TH DEC - Pupil Raffle - Teddy & Tombola collection

Bring in a soft toy or an item such as unused gift sets candles etc for our Christmas bazaar tombola for a chance to win the pupil prize draw! All donations are greatly appreciated! Bring in your donations to your child's class on the days we're collecting. Please make sure all teddy donations are washed 😊🧸 thank you

9TH, 10TH & 12TH DEC - Christmas Production Photo Sales

FOPTM will be selling production photos of your child before and after their production.

1st photo - £3.00

Any additional photos - £2.00

Original copy & digital copy - £10.00

13TH DEC - Non School Uniform

On this day your children are to wear non-school uniform in return of a donation. We would love the kids to wear something Christmassy but of course they can wear whatever they like

-Preschool, nursery, reception, year 1, year 2 are to bring in a chocolate donation

-Year 3, year 4, year 5, year 6 are to bring in a bottle donation

14TH DEC - FOPTM Christmas Bazaar 12.00-3.00pm

We have a lot of festive fun things planned for you all and hope you all can make it! We also have Santa and Buddy the Elf visiting Pear Tree Mead!!! 🧑🏻‍🎄

We're still looking for volunteers to help run this event. If you can help in away please contact us through our Facebook page or email us at foptm@peartreemead.com.

16TH & 17TH DEC - Christmas Present Sale

This is a great way for your children to buy their loved ones something special for Christmas 🎄 All family members catered for. All presents are £2.50 each - sold during school hours. Just simply send your child in with their money and leave the rest up to us.

20TH DEC - FOPTM Pre-loved Uniform Sale

Held in the small hall after school. We have lots of different items available!! Feel free to come along, have a browse and pick up a bargain! Card payments will also be available (£1 transaction fee)

We hope you all have a great little break and thank you for your continued support!

From the FOPTM Team





FOPTM

Christmas Present

Sale

**16th & 17th
December**

*Sale is during school
hours. Just simply send
your child in with their
money*

£2.50 each

Made with PosterMyWall.com



FRIENDS OF PEAR TREE MEAD

Christmas Bazaar



SATURDAY 14TH DEC

12.00-3.00PM

FOOD - DRINKS - GAMES

CRAFTS - FACEPAINTING

GLITTER TATTOOS

SANTA'S GROTTTO

RAFFLE





FOPTM
Non-school
Uniform
Friday 13th
December
 Preschool, nursery,
 reception, year 1, year 2
Chocolate donation
 Year 3, year 4, year 5,
 year 6
Bottle donation

Made with PosterMyWall.com



FOPTM
Christmas Production
Photo Sale
 1st Photo - £3.00
 Additional Photos - £2.00
Original Copy & Digital £10.00
 BEING SOLD BEFORE AND AFTER PRODUCTION
 CARD PAYMENTS AVAILABLE (£1.00 TRANSACTION FEE)
 Year 1 - 10th December
 Nursery - 12th December
 Pre School - 9th December

Made with PosterMyWall.com



Useful links

Useful Links

[HandWashingPosters.pdf](#)

School Readiness Project - [PSBC September 2024 \(1\).pdf](#)

Bike Ability Holiday Courses & Information -

Free activity - [Room on the Broom October half term 2024.docx](#)

Reminders

The closing date for the year 6 secondary school applications is on the 31 October 2024.

OTHER REMINDERS

- *Children should 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.*
 - *No Vaping on school grounds*
 - *No dogs are allowed on site*
 - *School lunch boxes should not contain chocolate, sweets or excessive amounts of crisps.*
 - *No nuts or food containing nuts*
-

Gates after school will be closed promptly as our after school club could be outside completing their activities. Please leave the school grounds as quickly as you can.

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. For those children that walk and cycle to school could we please remind them of safety on the roads and around the streets.

If you have any general enquiries please email these to info@peartreemead.essex.sch.uk

Many thanks for your understanding.

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.*
-

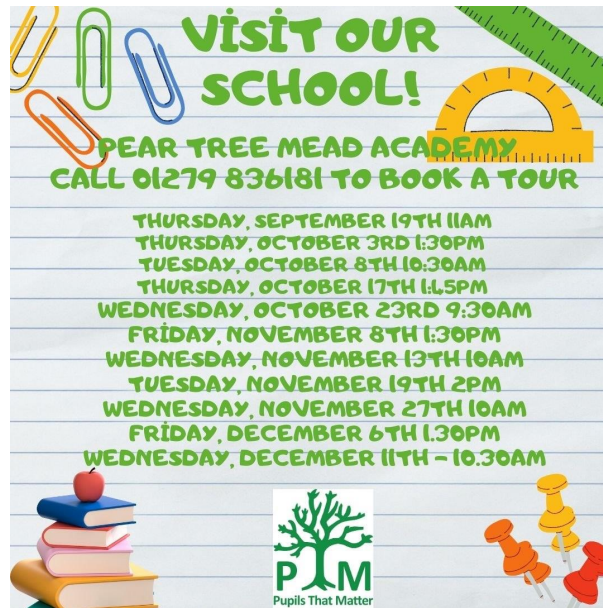
For more information please see :-

<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.

Reception 2025 visits to the school



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.com

Questionnaire 2024 Results -

Results coming soon - please keep an eye out for the 2024 results and our action plan based on the results.

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.

[Pear Tree Mead Academy - 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.

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.