



## December 2025 Newsletter



### [Pear Tree Mead Academy December 2025 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 the Headteacher.**
- **What's coming up next term?**
- **FOPTM update**

- **What's been going on this half term?**
- **Governors needed**
- **Reminders**
- **Contact Us**

## Message from Mrs Peden, Headteacher

Dear Parents, Carers and Members of our School Community,

As we reach the final day of term, I would like to take a moment to reflect on the wonderful festive season we have shared together, the countdown to Christmas has truly begun.

The past few weeks have been filled with joy, creativity and community spirit, and I am incredibly proud of all our children and staff. Our Year 6 Church Service today was a truly special occasion, offering us a chance to come together in celebration and reflection. The children's Year 1 Nativity performance, Rockband Show and Nursery and Pre-school's singalongs were heartwarming, and their enthusiasm and confidence shone through every moment. We also enjoyed a host of festive activities across the school—from gingerbread decorating and class parties to lovely card making and tree decorating that filled our corridors with Christmas cheer.

We have carried on with the My Harlow, My Future project this half term which the children have been enjoying. This half term they met with 3 environmental experts under the Reuse, Reduce and Recycle title.

These events have created lasting memories, and I want to thank you all for your support, kindness and encouragement throughout a very busy term. Thank you to those parents who bought Christmas makes, donated bottles or chocolate, attended our Christmas bazaar or came along to a performance. A massive thank you to FOPTM for all of the wonderful events that he has put on this term - from the present sale, photos from performances and our fantastic Christmas Bazaar. Another big thank you to our new gardening team of volunteers who have been doing an amazing job around the school. If anyone else is interested please pop into the office to find out more information. It was nice to say thank you to our volunteers with a mince pie and a glass of mulled wine today.

A lovely thank you at the end of this term to generous families who made a donation to the school. The Salomia's and Isbitiren's. We will be using the money for a KS1 calm area. Thank you so much. If any other families would like to support the school please contact the school office.

I wish every one of our families a peaceful, joyful Christmas break and look forward to welcoming you back in the new year on Monday. Please see below the list of activities that are taking place next half term. These are also on the website and on the ARBOR App.

Warmest wishes,

Mrs Peden

Headteacher

## Reading Advice for parents and children

### **Create book clubs and reading time together.**

You can also reframe [family reading time](#) as a book club, or you can form a book club with other young people in your family. For instance, if you have multiple children, the children can get together to form their own book club; the same can be done with nearby cousins or other family members. Keep in mind, the kids would likely all need to be close in age in order to pick an appropriate book. Then you can meet to discuss the book in person or virtually. What a lovely idea to make reading part of your family get togethers. Could you challenge yourself as a family to all read the same book or all read a number of chapters before you meet again next time from the books you are all reading. Everyone in the family reading shows that reading is important to you all as a family unit. How nice it would be to all read together each day, even if you can only manage a few moments of time to come together.

## What's coming up next term?

**5th January - Start of term - Whole school**

**5th January - Pre- School / Current Nursery children starting this week**

**6th January - Winning house Non uniform - Email sent to the winning house**

**6th January – New nursery children – staggered start**

**15th January – Census Special Menu day. We ask all EY, KS1 and FSM children to have a meal on this day to help with raising school funding**

**20th January – Year 2 Bread making with ISS**

**22nd January - Siblings photo day, and Individuals for Nursery, Pre School and anyone new to the school – Whole school**

**After school group shots for anyone who would like to attend 3.15pm - small hall – for any sibling groups with children who do not attend PTM.**

**23rd January – Numbers Birthday – dressing up as a pet day - £1**

**27th January - 2pm Send Coffee afternoon**

**30th January - Inset day – school closed to pupils**

**2nd Feb - 6th Feb Children’s Mental Health Week - Whole school**

**2nd February – PCLC Tag Rugby Tournament – after school**

**3rd February – Great Open Door Assembly - children only**

**6th February - Film Night (after school) More information to follow. £5 a ticket**

**9th February - PCLC Spelling Bee Launch - Yr R to 6**

**10th February – ESafety day and a special menu.**

**13th February – Colour Day for Pre school**

**13 February - Valentines Special menu for school dinners.**

**13th February – Last day of Half Term - normal finish time**

**13th February – Preloved uniform sale – 3pm – small hall.**

**13th February – FOPTM Valentines Afternoon Tea – after school event**

#### *FUTURE DATES*

***5th March Alice in Wonderland Production - am - KS 2 – at Passmores***

***5th March - Key Stage 2 World Book Day – PLEASE WEAR A COSTUME FROM Alice in Wonderland production READY TO WATCH THE PLAY THAT DAY – at Passmores.***

***5th March - Key Stage 1 and EY World Book Day – come dressed at a book character***

#### ***Numbers the School Dog***

*Numbers has been enjoying working with the children this half term and seeing some of their amazing work. The children have enjoyed practising his tricks with him. His new trick this half term has been roll over and through the legs.*

*He is excited about his first birthday in January. We are hoping the children will join him in his celebration and dress-up as a pet / animal for a £1 donation. This money will go towards his grooming, treats for tricks and food whilst he is at school. If we raise any more, Numbers has requested an agility course for his birthday.*









## What's been going on this half term?

### FOPTM

FOPTM team hope that you all enjoyed the events that we have run and organised for you all this term! What a busy term it has been! We had our production photo sales for saplings, nursery and year one. An amazing £209.38 was raised! We would like to say a big thank you to anyone who bought their children's photo. A few of our members who volunteer at our events took 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's next production, please get in touch to see how you can help us and earn rewards.

The children also got super creative with their class creations and designs from class fundraising. An amazing £948.60 was raised! So massive well done to the children and PTM staff. A big well done to Mulberry Class who were the winners and raised £130 profit.

Our Christmas presents sale was a massive hit this year with us nearly selling out of presents. We hope on Christmas day you love the gifts that your children chose. Each and every one took plenty of time and thought to choose the perfect present for their loved one. We can

announce we made a whopping £551.14! So thank you for allowing your children to take part in this. Our next present sale is Mothers and others for Mother's Day. Please keep your eyes peeled for more details in the next coming weeks!

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 thanks to Santa for coming to Pear Tree Mead again this year, we hope that that he comes again to see us next year. A whopping £1203 was raised. We would like to say a massive thank you to everyone that helped run this event. Without volunteers we just couldn't make things like this possible and a fair few travelled hours just to help so thank you! To see some photos of the event please see our FOPTM facebook page.

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

The FOPTM team

## Kindness Week (anti bullying)

Our school took part in **Anti-Bullying Week**, which this year coincided with **World Kindness Day**—giving us a wonderful opportunity to celebrate friendship, respect, and the power of kindness.

We kicked off the week with **Odd Socks Day**, with pupils and staff proudly wearing their brightest, boldest, and oddest socks to celebrate individuality and remind everyone that it's okay to stand out. Odd Socks Day marks the start of Anti-Bullying Week and encourages us all to value what makes each of us unique.

Throughout World Kindness Day, children across the school took part in a range of classroom activities that explored what kindness looks like in everyday life. The day started with a special assembly, where we reflected on how even small acts of kindness can make a big difference in our school community. It was a positive, colourful, and uplifting week—one that helped us strengthen our commitment to creating a safe and supportive environment for all.

## PCLC Netball Tournament

On Monday, eight year 6 children participated in our first PCLC tournament of the year. The children participated in three netball games against other schools and worked so hard! Thank you to everyone involved!



## EYFS & KS1 Peter Pan Panto

The children were thrilled to welcome a production company to school for a special performance of Peter Pan. Our EYFS and KS1 children were captivated from start to finish, joining in with the fun, laughter, and excitement as the magical story came to life on stage. It was a wonderful experience for all, and the children were left buzzing. Thank you to FOPTM for funding this for our children.









## Year 1 Polar Express Day

**Year 1 had a magical Polar Express Day!** We sipped warm hot chocolate, munched on popcorn, and spent the day creating festive crafts. It was a wonderful way to celebrate the season and bring the story to life together.







## Year 1 'Wriggly Nativity'

Our Year 1 children delighted audiences this term with their joyful performance of *The Wriggly Nativity*. This lively and modern retelling of the Christmas story was full of energy, music, and smiles, and the children performed with great confidence and enthusiasm.

Every child played their part beautifully, whether singing, speaking, or wriggling along to the music!

We are incredibly proud of how hard the children worked to learn their lines and songs, and we would like to thank parents and carers for their continued support. Well done to Year 1 for a truly memorable and heart-warming performance.





## Year 2 Colchester Trip

Year 2 had a wonderful day out at Colchester Zoo, filled with excitement, discovery, and plenty of smiles. The trip became even more magical when the children were surprised by a special visit from an elf and Father Christmas themselves! Throughout the day, the children were exceptionally well behaved and an absolute delight to take on the trip. It was a truly memorable experience for everyone.











### Year 3 Stone Age Workshop

Year 3 Stone Age Workshop On Wednesday 10th December 2025, the whole of Year 3 were transported back in time to the Stone Age, where they were led by Cavegirl Kate, Caveman Pete and Wolfie. The children had a wonderful time learning all about the Stone Age, including the three time periods it was split into, how people hunted and cooked food, as well as how they discovered fire and the clothes they wore. Year 3 were very lucky to be able to explore a range of different artefacts and learn about what they were used for. They also became archaeologists, digging in the sand to find clues about what life was like back then, as well as practicing throwing a spear to catch some food for their settlement. The day finished with a lovely class photo, taken in front of a snowy backdrop, with the addition of a snow machine. The children all had a wonderful time and learnt a lot. Thank you to all the Year 3 parents for your continued support with these different learning opportunities.







## Year 4 Art Gallery

In December, year 4 hosted their annual art gallery, where they presented the experience work that they have worked hard on this term. There were some wonderful pieces of art on display and children were able to talk about the famous artists linked to their work.

Thank you to everyone who came and enjoyed the event. It was disappointing to have to remind parents about our expectations of children and parents behaviour at school events. We hope that this doesn't happen again.

## Nurture Group Panto Visit

Our Nurture Group children enjoyed a truly magical afternoon at the Harlow Playhouse, where they watched a lively performance of *Sleeping Beauty*. The trip was filled with laughter, excitement, and plenty of classic panto fun. The children were wonderfully engaged throughout the show and returned to school beaming with smiles and stories to share. It was a fantastic experience for everyone involved!



## Year 6 Christmas Carol Concert

Our Year 6 children gave a fantastic performance at the St Stephen's Church service, singing a selection of Christmas carols beautifully. They sang with confidence and enthusiasm, proudly representing our school in front of a supportive audience of parents, carers, and family members, as well as children from Years 4 and 5. It was a lovely occasion.







## Rock Steady Concert

Our young musicians shone brightly in their Rocksteady concerts. From drummers to singers and from keyboards to guitars, the children showcased their amazing talent and confidence. They performed brilliantly for the whole school in the morning, then wowed their families and carers with a fantastic afternoon performance. We are so proud of their hard work, teamwork, and enthusiasm—well done to all our budding rock stars!



















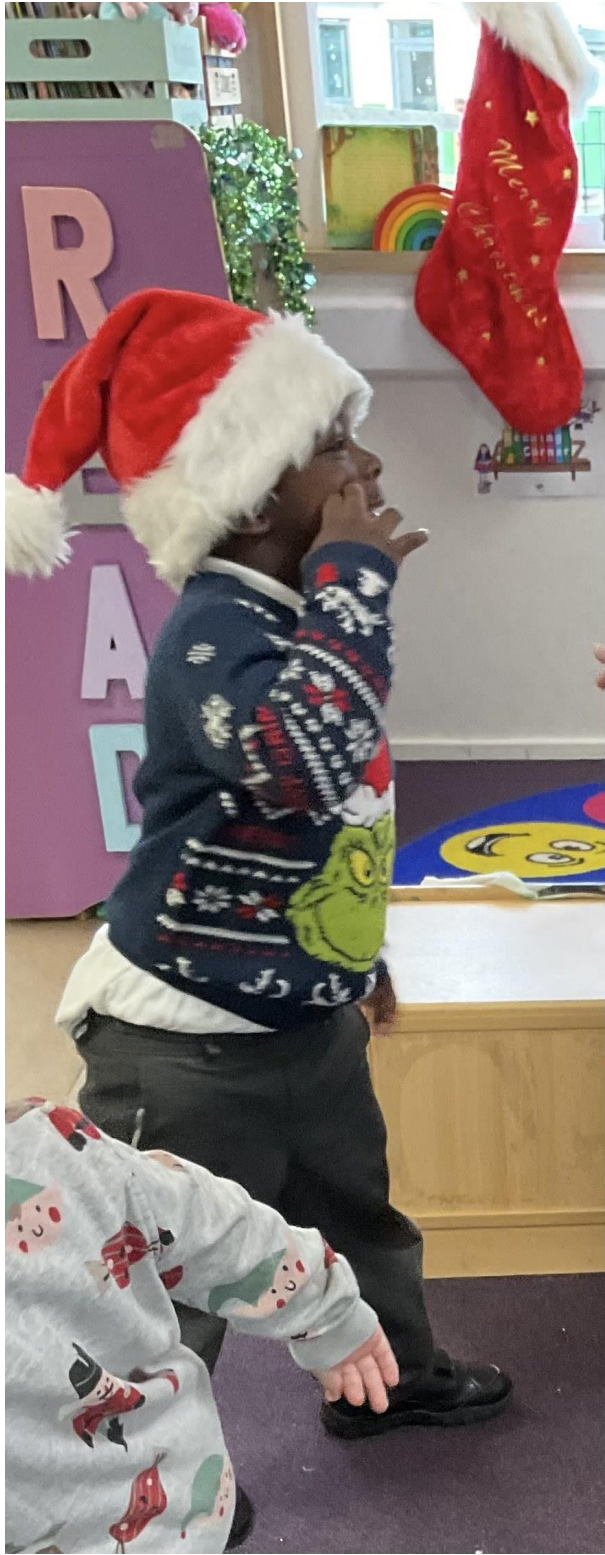


## Pre School Sing Along

On the 8th December Saplings had their Christmas Sing along. They sang Dancing Christmas Tree, Twinkle, Twinkle Christmas Star, When Santa got Stuck up the Chimney, Gingerbread Cookie Dance, Jingle, jingle little Bell and We wish you a Merry Christmas to our grown ups. Saplings worked hard over the last few weeks learning all the songs and Mrs Tappenden and Mrs Nash were super proud of them.









## Pre School Santa's Letters

On the 18th November Saplings walked to the local post box with our grown up to post their Father Christmas letters. They all wore a Father Christmas hat, it was lots of fun!





## Pre School Graduation

On Wednesday 17th December Saplings class said goodbye to the 5 children who are moving up to Nursery in January. We wish you all the best!







## What has been happening in nursery?

This term the children have enjoyed the start of our 'People who help us' topic. The children have had lots of fun exploring our new and improved role-play area where they have dressed up as doctors and nurses, as well as caring for animals in the Veterinary surgery.

During Phonics, they had the opportunity to make their own musical shakers using different materials such as rice, pasta, feathers, pom poms and beads. They then enjoyed experimenting to make their own sounds.

## Nursery Sing Along

The nursery children did so well at their Christmas sing-along, singing along and joining in with the actions too. The children looked amazing in their Christmas jumpers/outfits. They also did a fantastic job standing in the line, waiting to go into the hall. Well done everybody!





## Class Parties

All the children enjoyed a fabulous Christmas celebration this week. They danced to music, played Just dance and played some fun party games. Thank you some staff who made a guest appearances and ate some delicious party food! Thank you to our parents who bought in party food, I know there are some left overs ready for a January pick me up!

Merry Christmas everyone!





## Christmas Dinner

The children enjoyed a wonderful Christmas dinner filled with festive cheer and big smiles! Adding to the magic of the day, teachers swapped their usual roles and became servers for the lunch, making the experience extra special for everyone. With Christmas crackers to pull, and a delicious festive feast to enjoy, it was a joyful celebration that truly captured the spirit of the season









## Parent Information

### **KS1 & KS2 Science competition at PTM, please see flyers below**

[This whole-school competition encourages curiosity, creativity, and scientific thinking while celebrating the festive season! \(3\) \(1\).pdf](#)

[This whole-school competition encourages curiosity, creativity, and scientific thinking while celebrating the festive season! \(1\).pdf](#)

### **Free Creative Health Workshops**

[1.png](#)

[2.png](#)

[January - February Workshop Flyer.png](#)

### **Free English & Maths Courses for Adults**

[Harlow College - English, Maths & Digital Skills at Harlow College](#)

## St Stephens Church Christmas Events



## Staff News

We are so pleased to welcome many students to the school this term who are training to be teachers or wanting to work with children. Level 2, 3 and T students from Harlow College. SCITT students from FIPC, Students from Anglia Ruskin, Teacher training students from BEd and PGCE courses from Herts Uni and Secondary training teachers from Stewards.

We have had some absence from staff this term, we are sending them all well wishes and hope to have them back soon. Thank you for parents understanding when this happens, by using school staff and not agencies we are able to carry on with normal procedures for the children.

## Parents Behaviour

Over this term we have been disappointed a few times by parents behaviour. This has either been in WhatsApp groups or at parents events.

A reminder to parents to remember that you have all signed a home school agreement and this should be followed at all times, whether on Facebook, WhatsApp or whilst on school site.

If this continues we will be calling parents to talk to them about their actions and taking further legal advice.

If you have a concern about anything please do come and speak to us at school and we will always do our best to help,.

Thank you for your support in this matter.

We would also like to remind parents about parking sensibly! The zig zag lines outside the school are NOT to have any parking at any time at all! Please refrain from parking there no matter the time of day, we would also like you to park considerately and think of our neighbours please!

## 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](mailto: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.

## 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 [k.townsend@peartreemead.com](mailto:k.townsend@peartreemead.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.*

*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](mailto:info@peartreemead.com)***

***For complaints, compliments, concerns, admissions or attendance enquires please email [kate.townsend@peartreemead.com](mailto:kate.townsend@peartreemead.com)***

***for support with school payments ,breakfast club please email Mrs Hayton on [info@peartreemead.com](mailto:info@peartreemead.com)***

***If you wish to email anyone else, please email Mrs Hayton on [info@peartreemead.com](mailto: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](http://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.