



## February 2026 Newsletter

[Pear Tree Mead Academy February 2026 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](#)

This Half Term is always a tricky one; with so much rain comes so much mud. Our children have been enjoying the mud through their opal play although I'm sure we are all looking forward to brighter days. We are always looking for any opal donations to help enhance the

children's lunch playtime. Please ask if you have anything that you want to donate and we can usually find a new home for it.

As we reach the end of another busy half term, I would like to thank all of our pupils, staff and families for their hard work and support over the past few weeks. February may be short, but it has certainly been packed with learning, laughter and lots of moments to be proud of.

Numbers birthday this half term was a real hit, the children looked amazing and Numbers had a great day, ending up with an agility show in the hall. Thank you for your donations and making such an effort with the children's costumes. We are pleased to let you know that we raised enough money to buy him his own agility course for the field and lots more treats for the children to use to help him practise his tricks.

A couple of weeks ago the children took part in Mental Health Awareness week. Children learnt about different aspects of mental health and how to support ourselves and each other over the week. We are looking forward to Diversity Week coming up next half term too. We have also been working with Mind in West Essex this term who have been offering some small group work. Thank you to them. Thank you also to Great Open Door for doing an assembly during this, we were really pleased to receive an email from them

*"It was wonderful to hear (during the assembly) how engaged and empathetic your children were....We have never had a pupil in the hall say to Dungaree Donna (a character who is sad about having been teased) "I will help you". It is a great credit to the school to have such caring pupils."*

It has been lovely to see the children so engaged in their lessons and wider school life, and I am incredibly grateful to our staff for their continued dedication and care. Thank you also to parents and carers for your ongoing encouragement, reading with the children and partnership with the school – it really does make a difference.

I wanted to say a big thank you to our new gardening volunteer team. They are now coming in weekly to clear areas around the school. We are currently going through the DBS process with them so that they can begin to work with small groups of children in the near future. We would love to grow this team, please pop into the office if you are interested. We are aware that the mud is really bad at present due to the large amount of rain that we have had this half term. We would ask parents to keep to the paths during drop off and pick up and be mindful of each other as we move around the grounds.

I hope everyone enjoys a well-earned half-term break, with some time to rest, recharge and spend together. We look forward to welcoming the children back refreshed and ready for the exciting learning ahead in the next half term.

Mrs Peden

- **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**

## What's coming up next term?

23rd February – **Start of term - whole school**

2nd March - Relationship and Sex Education (RSE) week - Year 1 to 6

2nd March - 6th March - Books and biscuits for Year 1 and 2 events this week. Please see email and Arbor Calendar for set dates for each class.

5th March - Alice in Wonderland Production - am - KS 2

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

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

5th - 7th March - Monday to Wednesday – Round 1 of spelling Bee in class.

6th March - Round 2 of Spelling Bee.

11th March – Young Carers Awareness Day, Cup cake decorating with ISS.

12th March - Year 6 to Crucial Crew

13th March - Mother's Day afternoon 1.30pm - 3pm – Year 1 and 2 female adults invited.

9th and 10th March – Mother Day sale - £2.50 a present – FOPTM

9th Science Week - activities in school.

9th International Women's Day. - special menu

16th March - Neuro diversity celebration week - all week

17th - Diversity After school fundraising activity – for parents and children. (£2 to enter)

17th March – Year 2 class work sharing 9.15am - 10am – for Castles work - Year 2 parents invited.

19th March – Year 4 Sports at Passmores – during day

20th March - Non uniform day for donations for the Fayre – whole school.

21st March (Saturday) – Easter Fayre – all welcome to attend. - Entries to Easter competition to be bought to the Fayre.

23rd March- Swimming Gala – all week – Whole school

23rd March- Reports home to parents – Year 1 to 6.

25th March – Final of the PCLC Spelling Bee – Round 3 at Passmores.

24th March - Parents Consultation 3.30pm – 5.30pm face to face

25th March - Parents Consultation 5.00pm – 7.30pm via teams

26th March - Nursery Induction - 2pm – large Hall 23rd

Easter Assembly 9am – 10.30am - Year 3 and 4 children will be attending the church.

25th March - Easter / Spring Singalong – Reception – 9.30am - 10am – parents will be invited. Tickets will be issued - Photos and programmes for sale – Small hall.

26th March - **Nursery and pre school to finish.** Pre School Graduation.

26th March – House Reward – non uniform for the winning house - emails will be sent out to notify parents of the winning house.

26th March Easter Egg Hunt Activity (all day) - Whole school and Easter Special Menu

26th March - Year 4 to Passmores for sports evening - during the day

27th March - **End of Term @ 1.30pm**

27th March – Preloved uniform sale – 1.30pm – small hall.

Welcome Back to school - Monday 13th April 2026

## SPELLING BEE

**We are really excited to launch our annual PCLC spelling Bee this year. All children have now been sent via email the list of spellings for Round 1 for each year group. These need to be learnt over half term. Round 1 will then take part in classes with the winning 3 children from each class moving to round 2. Round 2 then takes part in front of their peers to get down to 1 winner per year group. Winners of round 2 from Year 3,4,5 and 6 will go to Round 3 which is held at Passmores against the other PCLC primary schools.**

**The letter sent with the spellings has been sent via Arbor email. Within this letter there are also ways o support your children to help them to learn their words.**

**GOOD LUCK EVERYONE**

## New School Council

Congratulations to our new School Councillors for the rest of the Year

Elm – Edward Callimache and Maddie Hughes

Fir - Harry Hanks and Zayanna Zaranyika

Hazel – Mason Forsyth and Aria-Grace Poplar

Juniper – George Kinsella and (no name permission)

Lavender - Zayn Siddiqui and Ivy Griffiths

Mulberry – Joshua Leeks and Lily Rothern

Oak – Charlies Collier and Ruby Kerrigan

Pine –

Redwood - Kit Calladine and Amber Palmer

Sycamore – Amayah Phillips and Alex Masaniello

Willow – Max McGinley and Piper Curtis

Yew – Reyyan Duran and Cairo Edwards.

## St Clare Hospice - Roar Louder

We are proud to be part of the *pride* and delighted to support *Lions on the Loose* – a unique public art trail that will see a pride of life-sized lion sculptures taking to the streets of Harlow and Epping in Summer 2026.

Last week we had Roary the Lion visit the school to help us launch the project.

This inspiring event will bring communities together, celebrate creativity, and leave a lasting legacy. At the end of the trail, many of the sculptures will be auctioned to raise vital funds for St Clare Hospice, helping to ensure local people receive the care and support they need.

Find out more at [lionsontheloose.co.uk](https://www.lionsontheloose.co.uk)

#lionsontheloose <https://www.facebook.com/lionsontheloosetrail>

As part of this project we will be creating our very own Lion and this will be part of the pride on display around Harlow. As part of the project we would like the whole school to be

involved in decorating the lion. Your child will have brought home a design sheet today which they can complete the try and be part of the final design plan. These are due back on Monday 23rd Feb and we will then decide on a final design.

We are also offering all the children a chance to have their own name put on the lion. There will be a charge of £2 per child to have their name on the lion. All of this money will be given straight to St Clare's hospice as part of their fundraising appeal. As a school we have been asked to try and raise £500 for the charity and so we are looking for at least 250 names to be added to our lion. More information on how to do this will come to parents nearer the time.

Once we know where our lion will be placed within the trial we will let you know.

Mrs Peden





What's been going on this half term?

### Numbers Birthday Celebrations

On 23rd January, we celebrated Numbers the School Dog Mentor's birthday with a fantastic *Dress as an Animal* day. Staff and pupils alike joined in, making it a truly wonderful event. It was lovely to see the wide variety of creative costumes and animal-themed outfits worn by the children. Throughout the day, Numbers enjoyed visiting classes to admire all the brilliant costumes. We also held a special assembly where Numbers proudly showcased the agility skills he has been working so hard to learn. A fun day for all!

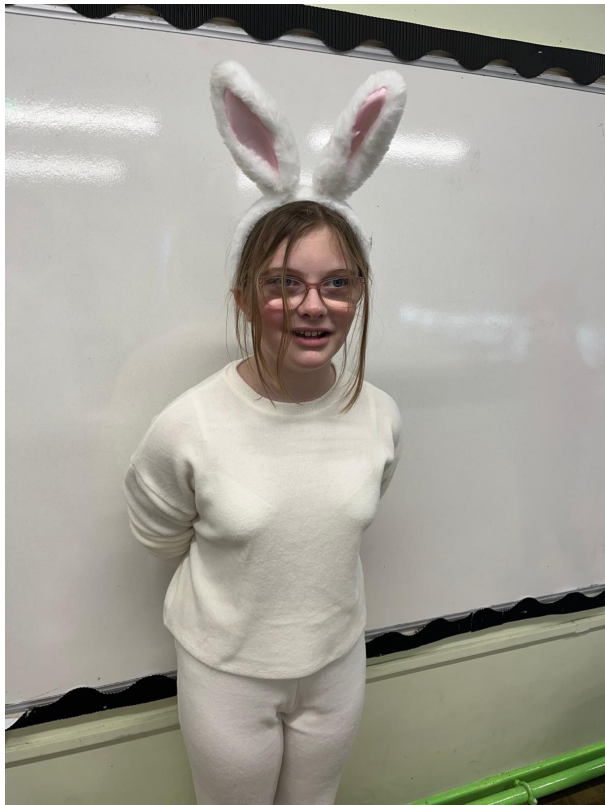
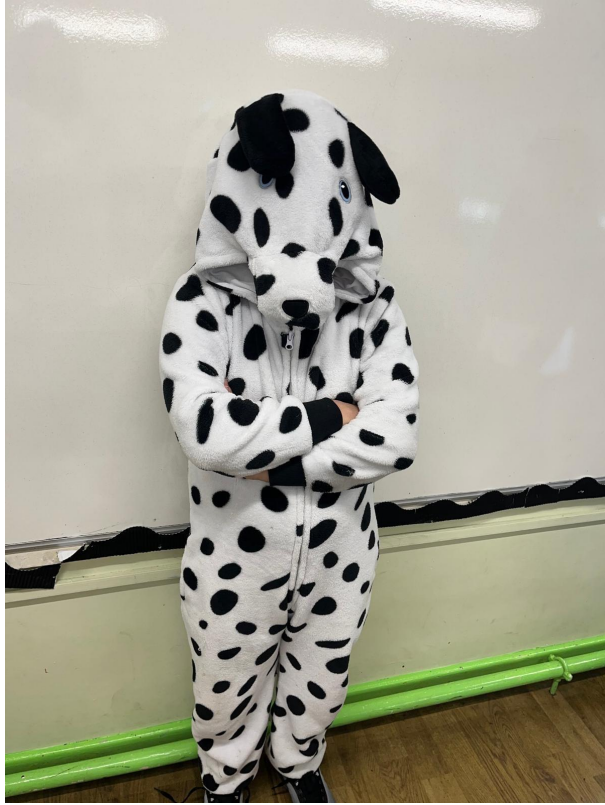


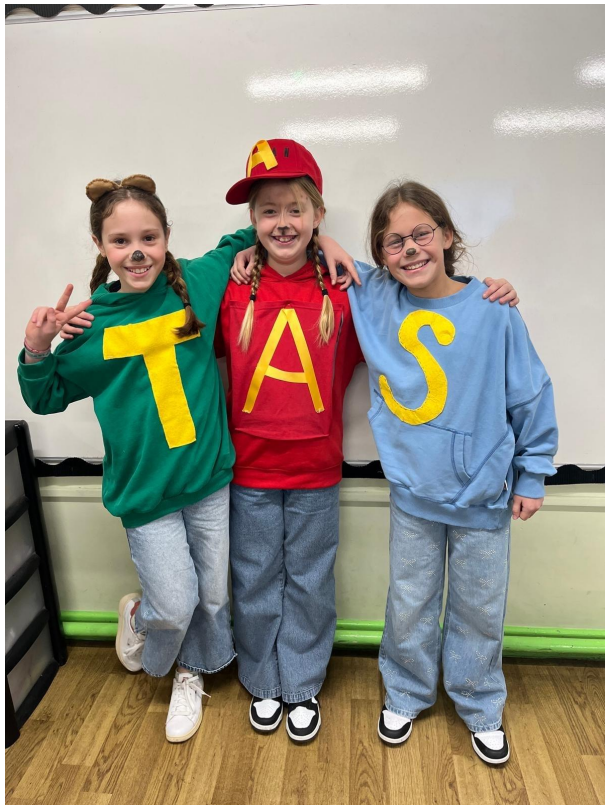












































## Year 6 Mathematical Challenges Morning

This term, on 7th January, Year 6 pupils from Pear Tree Mead Academy enjoyed an exciting and enriching Mathematical Challenges Morning at Stewards Academy, delivered in partnership with the UK Mathematics Trust. The event brought together children from across the PCLC Trust to take part in a range of engaging problem-solving activities designed to stretch their thinking, promote teamwork, and build resilience.

Our pupils had a fantastic time competing against other schools, demonstrating great enthusiasm, determination, and collaboration throughout the morning. We are incredibly proud to share that their hard work paid off, and Pear Tree Mead emerged as the overall winners. It was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate their mathematical talents and enjoy learning in a fun, friendly, and competitive environment. Well done Pear Tree Mead!



## Year 4 Life Skills

Last week, Year 4 life skills group enjoyed reading *Percy the Park Keeper: One Snowy Day* and learning how to care for animals in winter. Inspired by the story, the children made their own bird fat balls. They then placed them around the school grounds to help support our local wildlife during the colder months. A lovely way to put our learning into action! ❤️











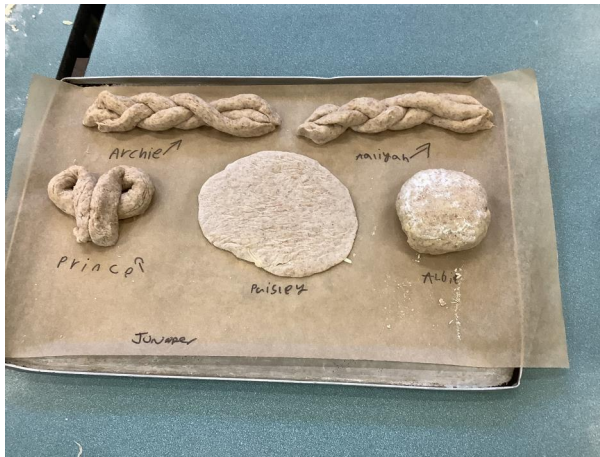
## Year 2 Bread Making

Year 2 had a fantastic time taking part in a special bread-making session with our catering supplier, ISS. The children loved getting hands-on with the dough and had lots of fun shaping their bread into a variety of creative designs. It was a wonderful opportunity to learn new skills and explore how bread is made. Well done, Year 2!









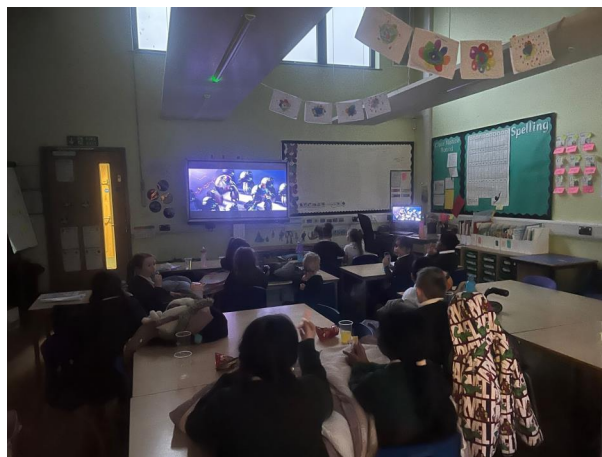
## Thank you

A big thank you to Holy Cross School who invited 15 of our staff over to try their Autism Reality Experience Bus whilst it was on their site for the day. Staff were given equipment, experiences, simulations and tasks to do. This helped staff to understand what it may be like for children with Autism within a normal school day. It was a really eye opening experience for us all.



## PTM Film Night

Our recent film night for children from Reception to Year 6 was a huge success! Thanks to everyone who came along, we raised an amazing **£460!!** The children had a fantastic time watching movies with their friends while enjoying snacks and drinks—and were especially delighted by a special visit from our school dog, Numbers! Thank you to all who helped make the evening such a fun and memorable event.





## Tag Rugby Tournament

On Friday 6th February, some of our year 6's travelled to Passmores to participate in a Rugby tournament against three other schools. Everybody involved in the tournament displayed maximum effort and represented Pear Tree Mead amazingly. Thanks to all who participated.

## Pre School - Dress as your favourite nursery rhyme character

On Friday 13th February Saplings came to school dressed as their favourite Nursery Rhyme character to celebrate the end of their topic based around the story Each, Peach, Pear, Plum.

They had a yummy picnic like they did at the end of the story.

They all looked great!





## FOPTM

So it's a very quiet half term for FOPTM. Sadly we had to cancel our valentines afternoon tea due to the lack of interest but we're hoping to reschedule this later in the year.

Next term we have our Easter Fair as well as other events planned.

DATES TO BE SET - Pupils Raffle - FOPTM will be collecting Easter egg donations a few weeks before our Easter Fair, date is still to be agreed so watch out for duster information. Just simply bringing your donation in the morning and your children will be entered into our pupil raffle. This year we're giving away a pass to use at our Easter fair where you'll be able to get a free food item and drink, as well as being able to do one item from our craft room and play some of our games.

FOPTM EASTER COMPETITION (BAKE OFF) - due to having so many amazing entries last year our Easter competition is going to be a baking competition. We're asking you to get creative and get baking. Your children can choose anything to bake but a couple of ideas can be cupcakes biscuits whole cakes, sausage rolls. But please bear in mind that we are a nut free school so please do not bring anything that contains nuts. We will ask you to bring in your

competition entries on Friday, the 20th of March. Alternatively you can bring them in on the day of the fair, but please arrive at 12.00. All entries will receive a little Easter treat with winners winning a prize. We very much look forward to seeing your children's bakes.

20th March - Non school uniform day - in exchange for your child to come into school in non-school uniform we are asking for a donation. Preschool nursery reception year one and year two are to bring in a chocolate donation. Year three year four year five and year six are to bring in a bottle donation. We always appreciate your support on things like this as well as the pupil raffle. The donations you give are the reason we're able to raise such an amazing amount at our big events so as always, we really appreciate your support and kindness.

21st March - FOPTM Easter fair - loads of fun for all the family with everybody welcome to attend. Food drink games, raffle, crafts among other things will be available. We are still in need of volunteers to help run stalls and help set up and tidy away. If you are able to help, please just get in contact with a member of the FOPTM team. Any help is always ever so appreciated.

9th & 10th March - Mother's & Others Present Sale - This is very similar our Christmas sale we had last year. On these days your children are able to choose a present for their special loved ones for Mother's Day. We have a lovely range of different items suitable for all family members but bear in mind there are limited amounts so to avoid disappointment we suggest you make sure your children brings in their money on the 9th to avoid disappointment. Present's cost £2.50 each.

25th March - reception spring singalong - FOPTM will be at the production before and after selling your children's production photos. First photo is £3 any additional photos are £2. You will also get a chance to buy the original and get a digital copy for £10. Card payments will be available but there will be a £1 transaction fee.

We hope you all have a lovely little break and we very much look forward to having a little bit of fun next term

Many thanks from the FOPTM team

## Parent Information

One of our pupils Hayden Boon is taking part in the TCS Mini London Marathon for Shine City, please see information below from Hayden's parents.


### **My 7-year-old son, Hayden, is taking on the TCS Mini London Marathon for Shine Charity.**

Hayden has hydrocephalus and cerebral palsy and will be completing the marathon in his wheelchair.

He was born three months early after his mum's waters broke at just 18 weeks, leaving him with almost no fluid for 10 incredibly difficult weeks before he arrived at 28 weeks. From his very first moments, Hayden has had to fight.

At just 11 months old, Hayden became seriously ill with sepsis and meningitis — a terrifying time for our family that he bravely overcame. More recently, he has completed his third round of Botox treatment to help strengthen his legs, continuing to show just how determined he is. Despite everything he has faced, Hayden is a loving, caring little boy who always wants to help others and never gives up.

What makes this even more special is that Hayden has already said he wants to do the marathon again next year — this time in his walking frame, if he's strong enough. His courage, hope, and positivity inspire everyone around him, and he is incredibly proud and excited to take on this challenge.

By supporting Hayden and donating to Shine Charity, you're helping families like ours and standing behind a truly remarkable little boy. 

Please take a moment to visit the link and share our page. When asked how much he wanted to raise, Hayden didn't hesitate — his goal is £1,000.

<https://2026tcs londonmarathon.enthuse.com/pf/hboon2026>

Shine provides specialist support from before birth and throughout the life of anyone living with spina bifida and/or hydrocephalus, as well as to parents, families, carers and professional care staff. Shine enables people to get the best out of life. Everything we do is made possible by our generous supporters. Your donation helps individuals and families in your local communities across England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Every donation has the potential for profound impact.



## Half Term Activities

Key Dates 2026-2027 - [download.asp](#)

Off Road Bike Letter from Essex Police - [Off Road Bikes letter.docx](#)

Off Road Bike Poster Essex Police - [Off Road Poster.docx](#)

Startinf Reception Roadshow Information - [West Potter Street \(1\).pdf](#)

Harlow Library's February Half term activities - [image \(1\).png](#) - [image..png](#)

### Half-term fun at the Playhouse and Pets' Corner

There's plenty to do for all the family across Harlow in the half-term, and the Playhouse is offering something for everyone, from high-energy K-Pop to magical puppets, ROAR-some dinosaurs, sparkling unicorns and full-throttle wrestling!

Plus, there's even more happening around the building, with facepainting, stalls and hair braiding (19 February) as well as lots of free taster sessions with the Playhouse's resident companies to try on Tuesday 17 February.





So, whether you're bringing tiny theatre lovers or big kids-at-heart, there's loads of fun to be had! Book now: <https://tinyurl.com/yc445zy6>





And half-term fun continues over at Pets' Corner with keeper talks and feeds taking place from Monday to Saturday at midday and 2.30pm each day!





## February Half-Term Family Fun at ACL!





Looking for something creative, fun, and educational to do with the family this February half-term? We've got a fantastic line-up of FREE family learning sessions across Essex.

### February Half-Term Family Fun at ACL!

 **Family Crafts – Fun for February** ([Book now](#))  19 February 2026  ACL Chelmsford   
10:00 & 13:00 Explore your artistic talents, take part in hands-on craft activities, and make something you'll be proud to take home. A great opportunity to spend quality time together while learning through play.

 **Family Learning: Lego Challenges** ([Book now](#))  19 February 2026  ACL Harlow & The Library  10:00 Register now for a fun and imaginative Lego session! Build, create, and explore together as a family in this playful learning activity.

 **Spring Crafts** ([Book now](#))  19 February 2026  ACL Maldon  10:00 & 13:00 Celebrate the new season with our free spring-themed craft session! Learn new creative skills and enjoy a hands-on family activity designed to spark imagination and teamwork.

 **Winter Crafts** ([Book now](#))  19 February 2026  ACL Harlow & The Library  13:00 Join us for a friendly winter craft-making session perfect for families. Get creative and make something special together in a relaxed and fun environment.

## Spring 2 Treehouse Club Activities starting 23/02/26

### The Treehouse Club



## The Treehouse Club



Miss Cousins

Mrs Williams

Mrs Webb

Treehouse Leader

Treehouse Assistant

Treehouse Assistant

### Spring 2 Themes (3.15pm- 4.10pm)

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
				
Football & Outside games	Cooking	Bikes, Scooters & OPAL	Swimming	Arts & Crtafts

## Reminders

### 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, using any of the opal resources, 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.

### FOOD AT PTM

- Lunch Boxes should not have any food containing peanuts, we are a nut free school.
- Lunch boxes should not be filled with unhealthy snacks. No sweets, chocolate bars or fizzy drinks and not an excessive amount of unhealthy food.

- Whilst we love that we have the classic tradition of handing out sweets on children's birthday's and are happy for this to continue, we are also happy to give out other alternatives if you so wish such as rubbers, stickers etc. Maybe it would be nice for children to get a mixture of birthday treats throughout the year.

Many thanks for your understanding.

## Staff Information

A couple of updates on Staffing this half term. Miss Ferran and Miss Harrington are both leaving us at the end of this half term. We wish they both the best for their next adventures. Mrs Arnould and Mrs Davies will be taking over the class until Miss Garip returns from maternity leave at Easter.

We have had lots of students with us this half term. Teacher training students from Herts Uni and FIPC and child care and health and social care students from Harlow College. We also had 25 students from Passmores who have their hearts set on being future teachers; they came along to see what it's like.

## 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@pearttreemead.essex.sch.uk](mailto:kate.townsend@pearttreemead.essex.sch.uk)**

## Reminders

### **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. Children need to have wellies in school every day and may want to have a change of clothes or puddle suits to play in the muddier part of opal at lunchtime.

### **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. We pleased to say that we have been in touch with the council and they are looking at remarking our school lines so that parents are clear about where they should not be parking around the school. We have had some complaints from residents about the way our parents are driving and parking around our school.

### **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.

[Pear Tree Mead Academy - HOME](#)

## **Pear Tree Mead Academy**

Harlow

Essex CM18 7BY

01279 836181

For general enquiries please email [info@peartreemead.com](mailto:info@peartreemead.com)

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

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