



April 2026 newsletter

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

In This Issue



Dear Parents and Carers,

As we come to the end of a wonderfully busy and productive term, I would like to take a moment to reflect on some of the special events that have brought our school community together over the past few weeks.

World Book Day was, as always, a true celebration of reading. It was a joy to see the children (and staff!) dressed as their favourite book characters in EY and KS1 and in Alice in Wonderland costumes in KS2 and to hear the buzz of excitement as classes in Key Stage 2 enjoyed the Alice in Wonderland production. A big thank you to FOPTM for paying for this. Promoting a love of reading remains at the heart of what we do, and days like these remind us just how powerful books can be in sparking imagination and curiosity. The books and biscuits events that have been held in Year 1 and 2 during the week of WBD were well attended and it was lovely to see children enjoying books with their visitors.

We have also been preparing for Easter, a time of reflection, hope and new beginnings. Through assemblies, church visits, egg hunts, classroom discussions and creative activities, the children have been exploring the meaning of Easter and the values of kindness, compassion and renewal. Thank you for your generous support with our Easter events, and activities – your involvement always makes such a difference. The Easter competition and bake sale was well attended and the competition entrees were all amazing.

It has been a short but busy term, and I am incredibly proud of the children's hard work, positive attitudes and enthusiasm for learning. I hope you all enjoy a restful Easter break and find time to relax and spend precious moments together as a family.

We look forward to welcoming everyone back next term, refreshed and ready for the exciting learning ahead.

We have a new dinner menu starting after the holidays. Please see the link for more details

New dinner menu - [Pear Tree Mead- FHM Spring Menu 2026.pdf](#)

With best wishes,

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?

13th April – **Back to school - whole school**

17th April – FOPTM Quiz night – evening – parents only - TBC

21st April - KS2 SEND sports Pentathlon

22nd April - KS1 SEND sports Pentathlon

23rd April - St Georges Day Special Menu

4th May - **Bank holiday – SCHOOL CLOSED - Whole school**

11th May 2026 All Week – KS2 SATS - Mon – Thurs - Year 6

15th May – Charity Day – TBD - £1 donation, crazy hair day and non uniform- raising money for Pets Corner to adopt some animals.

15th May - Crazy Hair Day Special menu

18th May 2026 18th – PCLC Football Tournament – after school

21st May – FOPTM Disco (after school) 22nd

21st May - Census Special Menu day. We ask all EY, KS1 and FSM children to have a meal on this day

22nd May - Grandparents Afternoon - Year 3 and 4 Grandparents to attend. 2pm - 3pm

18th May to 22nd May - Road Safety Week - Whole school.

18th May - Launch of the PCLC Maths Competition (KS2)

19th May - Year 1 Sports Day 9.30am - 11am parents invited. Gates will be closed during this time

20th May - Year 2 Sports Day 9.30 - 11am parents invited. Gates will be closed during this time

20th May - Omelette making for year 6 children

21st May - Nurture group parents visit to Nurture group 1.30pm - 3pm

21st May – 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 please.

22nd May – End of Half term - normal finish time - Whole school

22nd May – Preloved uniform sale, free books, free milk and fruit to be collected – 3pm – small hall.

Parent Information

New dinner menu - [Pear Tree Mead- FHM Spring Menu 2026.pdf](#)

Spring Treehouse Club - [springs Treehouse poster.docx](#)

Bike Ability Easter Holiday Courses - [Easter Holidays 2026.png](#)

Essex Fire Museum Open Day - [march 2 dates.jpeg](#)

Essex Outdoors Harlow centre upcoming activities - [Amazing adventures Easter 26.pdf](#)

Easter Panto in Old Harlow's Victoria Hall - [Robin Hood Poster 1 \(Flyer \(A5\)\).PNG](#)

Reading at Home - Tips to help

Creating a Positive Environment

- Establish a "Cozy Zone": Create a dedicated, comfortable space for reading, such as a corner with blankets, pillows, or a small tent.
- Surround Them with Books: Keep reading material in every room, the car, and on low shelves for easy access.
- Be a Role Model: Let your children see you reading for pleasure, whether it's a book, magazine, or digital device.

Making it Fun and Engaging

- Follow Their Interests: Let children choose their own books, comics, or magazines, even if they want to read the same one repeatedly.
- Use Silly Voices: Act out characters and use different voices to keep children engaged.
- Connect to Everyday Life: Talk about stories and relate them to your child's life, or bring books on outings.
- Take Turns: Read together by alternating pages or paragraphs, which builds confidence in hesitant readers.

Practical Reading Strategies

- Ask Questions: Pause and ask questions like "What do you think happens next?" or "Why did the character do that?" to build comprehension.
- Handle Mistakes Gently: If a mistake is made, wait for them to self-correct or gently help them, then reread the sentence to ensure understanding.
- Use the "Five-Finger Rule": Have the child read one page. If there are five or more words they cannot read, the book might be too difficult for independent reading.
- Focus on Sounds: For young readers, point out letters and sounds, and practice blending sounds to read words.

Resources and Routine

- Visit the Library: Make regular trips to the local library to explore new books.
- Consistent Timing: Make reading a part of your daily routine, such as at bedtime or after dinner.
- Read Anything: Reading does not have to be limited to books—comics, recipes, websites, and magazines are also excellent, notes

What's been going on this half term?

Lions on the Loose

Helping 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 and lots of little lions taking to the streets of Harlow and Epping in Summer 2026. This inspiring event will bring communities together, celebrate creativity, and leave a lasting legacy. At the end of the trail, many of the large 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.facebook.com/lionsontheloosetrail) #lionsontheloose <https://www.facebook.com/lionsontheloosetrail>

As part of this project we have created our very own Perry the Pear Lion and this will be part of the pride on display around Harlow. The children helped me to design the lion and as part of the project every child was given a small pear and these were put all over the lions body. We then also offering all the children a chance to have their name put on the lion. These were 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. We were so pleased to add 140 names onto the lion and raised £240. As a school we have been asked to try and raise £500 for the charity. Part of the Dare to be Different day was also sent to the charity. Currently we have raised £470.

We also have a just giving page if you would like to donate more https://www.justgiving.com/page/peartreemeadstclare?utm_medium=FR&utm_source=CL&utm_campaign=020

Once we know where our lion will be placed within the trial we will let you know. We are hoping that children will visit our lion and some of the others on the trial. There will be a map and app for you so that you can find them all.

Many thanks





















Year 1 & 2 Books and Biscuits

Thank you to all the grown-ups who attended our **Books and Biscuits** session. We were so pleased with how many of you came along. The children really enjoyed having you there (and I think they also enjoyed a cheeky biscuit!).

Your attendance really supports the love of reading in your children that we work hard to instil at school. We hope to run sessions like this more regularly in the future and would love to see you there again.





World Book Day

Our school was buzzing with excitement as we celebrated **World Book Day** in true storybook style! We were delighted to welcome a fantastic production company into school to perform *Alice in Wonderland* for our KS2 children. The show brought the magic of Alice's Adventures in Wonderland to life, and the hall was filled with laughter for most of the performance. The children were thoroughly entertained and captivated by the colourful characters and lively storytelling.

Our KS2 pupils fully embraced the theme, arriving dressed as their favourite characters from *Alice in Wonderland*. From Alices and Mad Hatters to Queens of Hearts and White Rabbits, their creativity was wonderful to see! Meanwhile, our EYFS and KS1 children joined the celebrations by dressing as characters from their favourite books, showcasing a fantastic range of much-loved stories.

It was truly a joy to see the children so engaged, enthusiastic and proud to share their love of reading. World Book Day was a wonderful celebration of imagination, storytelling and the magic of books!

















Young Carers awareness day

We were proud to recognise Young Carers Awareness Day in school and take time to celebrate the incredible dedication and resilience of our young carers. The day is a national event led by Carers Trust, shining a spotlight on the important role young carers play within their families and communities.

To mark the occasion, our young carers enjoyed a special cupcake decorating session with ISS. The children had a wonderful time getting creative with icing and toppings, smiling as they designed their delicious treats.

It was a lovely opportunity for our young carers to relax, feel celebrated and spend time together. We are incredibly proud of them and remain committed to supporting them every step of the way.





















Year 2 work sharing assembly

Thank you to everyone who came to celebrate our Year 2 children during their work-sharing assembly. We are so grateful that so many of you were able to attend. The children thoroughly enjoyed sharing their work with you and were delighted to show how much they have learned.

Year 1 & 2 Mothers Day Afternoon

Our Mother's Day afternoon with Year 1 and Year 2 was a lovely event. The children enjoyed a range of activities including craft making, problem solving, and sharing stories together.

We were delighted by the number of parents and carers who attended—thank you for joining us and making the afternoon so special for the children.

New School Council

Congratulations to our new school council.



Year 4 Sports Morning at Passmores

The Year 4 students had a fun morning at Passmores this week. The Passmores students ran different stations for the children to try lots of different games and activities. Well done to the Year 4 pupils and thank you to Passmores.

Year 6 Crucial Crew

On 12th March, our Year 6 pupils attended the Crucial Crew event, where they took part in a range of engaging and informative workshops. Throughout the day, they learned about important topics such as internet safety with the police, building healthy relationships, and staying safe around fire, including the dangers of arson. The sessions were interactive and thought-provoking, helping the children to better understand how to make safe and responsible choices in everyday situations. It was a valuable experience, and the children gained a great deal of knowledge that will support them as they grow more independent.







Science Day

For Science day, the children worked on their skills of curiosity. They designed their own bubble wands and tested bubble shapes they were able to create. It was a fun investigation that help develop the skills of predicting, investigating, observing and concluding.



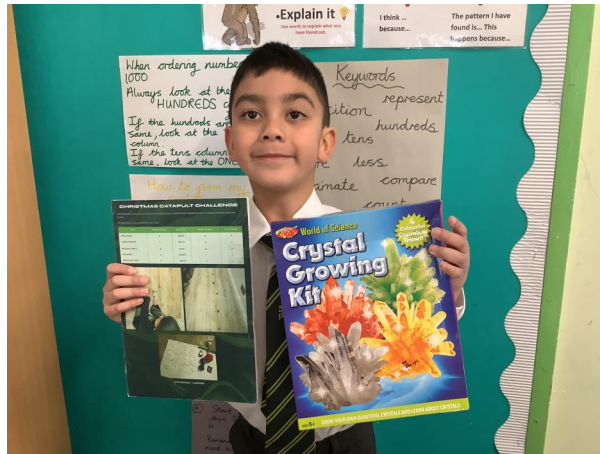






Science Competition

Well done to Zayn and Edward for winning the science competition! They were very happy with their prizes! Well done for taking part in the competition!



MSC meeting at Harlow College

Well done to a few of our year 6 children who attended a multi-schools meeting at Harlow College with lots of other local schools. They talked around topics for children and shared their ideas in front of others.



Rocksteady Concert

It was a pleasure to watch the recent Rocksteady performance – it was truly wonderful to see the children take to the stage with such enthusiasm and energy. They showed great courage performing in front of a large audience of adults.

A big well done to all of the children for their hard work, and a sincere thank you to everyone who came along to support them.

Your encouragement made the event even more special!

















Spelling Bee

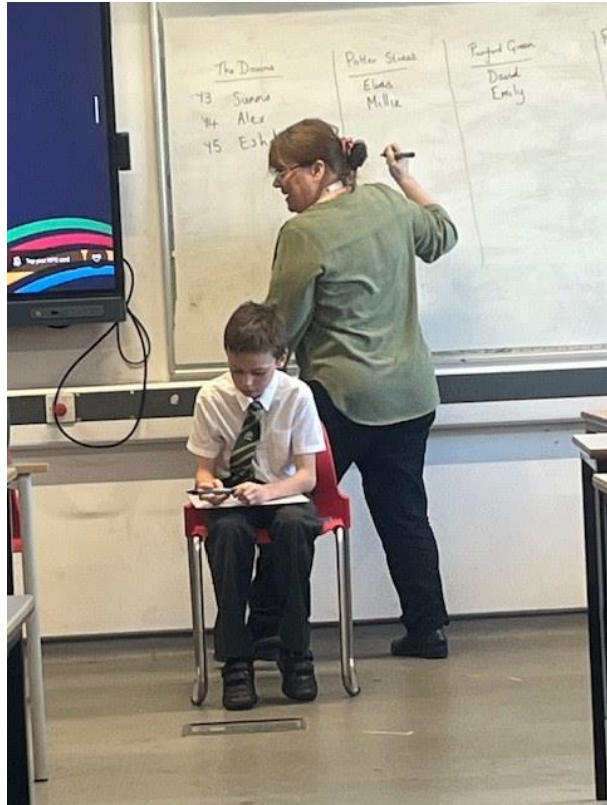
We have been working this half term on our PCLC spelling bee. The first round all the children took part in and then there were 6 winners chosen from each year group. These children were given a further set of words to learn and then took part in round 2. During this round some children had to be tested on the year group above, in fact in Year 3 then children got as far as some of the year 6 words!

Winners from each year group received a trophy and the winners from Year 3,4,5 and 6 went to the third round final held at Passmores this week. At this competition they went up against the other primary schools in PCLC and did themselves proud. The children performed amazingly well moving into year group words above their own year group. We didn't get any winners this time but we were so proud of them all.





























Year 3 & 4 Tennis

Year 3 & 4 children have really enjoyed going off site to complete their tennis lessons. They have developed fundamental coordination, racket control and basic movement through engaging games.









Neurodiversity Awareness Week - Diversity Treasure Hunt and Dare to be different

We were pleased to host our recent 'Fact & Fiction' scavenger hunt after school, which proved to be a great success! It was wonderful to see so many parents joining their children and taking part together in the activity.

The event aimed to raise awareness of neurodiversity, and we are proud to share that we also raised money for SNAP and Collectively Diverse—two charities dedicated to increasing understanding of neurodiversity and supporting families in need of help and advice.

Thank you to everyone who took part and supported this event we raised £57 for the two charities.

The fact and fiction statements are now up in the school for any other children to look at. They are also below in the pictures - see if you can see which statements are true and false.

We then at the end of week we held a Dare to be Different Day. We raised just over £250 which will be sent over to the charities as soon as possible.

Raising awareness of neurodiversity was a really interested week, where staff, children and parents all learnt some new facts.







Easter Egg Hunt

We are delighted to share that the children had a wonderful time taking part in our Easter egg hunt! Excitement filled the playground as they searched high and low for the hidden eggs.

The event brought lots of smiles, teamwork, and enthusiasm. The children showed great determination in finding as many eggs as they could.

A big well done to all who took part—and a special congratulations to the winning house, Unicorn! 🏆

Pre School - Pets Corner Visit

On Friday 20th March Saplings visited Harlow Town Park and Pets Corner. First they had lots of fun in the park playing on the slides and swings. Then they went to Pets Corner and was able to feed the chickens, goats, pigs and ponies. We had a great morning and had lots of fun!













Pre School Graduation

On Thursday 26th March Saplings class said goodbye to a child who is moving up to Nursery in April. We wish you all the best!

Reception Sing along

Our Reception Easter singalong performance was a truly joyful occasion! The children were incredibly brave and performed amazingly, filling the room with smiles.

It was wonderful to see so many parents and carers come along to support the children—your presence made the event even more special. A big well done to all of our Reception performers for such a fantastic job!





FOPTM

FOPTM have had another busy term. We had our Mothers and Others present sale, Easter competition and sold photos at the reception Springs singalong.

Sadly this year our Easter fair was not able to go ahead due to not having enough volunteers to run this event. Without volunteers, we just would not be able to do a event like this. Last year we raised an amazing £2377.46 at our Easter Fair. These funds make such a big difference to the students of PTM. One of them being the book day pantomime which

FOPTM fund every year. We are still planning our Summer Fair currently but the last thing we would want to do is also have to cancel this due to the amount of volunteers. If we were to cancel it would be another much loved event not to go ahead with another big hit to our fundraising total. So please if you can, volunteer in any shape or form you can.

Even though we cancelled the Easter Fair we still held our yearly Easter Competition. The children's bakes were absolutely amazing and extremely yummy!! We then sold the entries after school. We hope to let you know the total raised very soon.

Our mother's and other sale was a massive hit this year! So much we actually sold out and has to restock. It was so lovely to see the children pick out a present to give their loved one on Mother's Day. We hope you all liked your presents! Total raised will be released soon! Our next present sale is our fathers and superheroes present sale for Father's Day. 9th & 10th June. Again, this will be sold during school hours.

We also sold photos at the reception spring singalong. We were amazed at how many of you wanted to buy a photo and the children looked absolutely amazing. Reminder for reception parents if you did order a photo your copies will be available after the Easter holidays and anyone who ordered a digital copy They will be emailed to you very shortly. We will be super excited to announce our total.

Also don't forget our reward system! One of our parents helpers used their vouchers to be able to get a front row seat at the reception spring singalong. Would you like a front seat? Please get in touch and find out how you can get this for your child's next production.

Next term we have some different planned. On Friday 17th of April we have our very first Quiz night planned as well as our friends or pear tree mead disco on Thursday 21st of May. Details will be posted closer to the time, so please keep your eyes peeled for any announcements from us.

We hope you all have a great Easter full of fun and we look forward to seeing you next term.
The FOPTM team

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. The gates will be locked promptly before and after this time to safeguard the children.

- 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.
- Snacks at break time should be fruit or vegetables only.
- Unhealthy snacks should not be eaten before or the on the way to school.

Many thanks for your understanding.

[Staff Information](#)

We are pleased to welcome Miss Garip back to school after maternity leave. She is now working in Sycamore class for 3 days a week. We are sad to see that Mrs Derereux is leaving us this week. We wish her all the best with her next adventures.

PTM Governors



Current Vacancies: Parent Governor & Community Governor

Who we are:

The Governing Body currently consists of the Headteacher, 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

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

For complaints, concerns, admissions or attendance enquires please email k.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.com

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