

December 2023 newsletter

Pear Tree Mead Academy December 2023 Newsletter



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Message from Mrs Peden, Headteacher

Dear parents

What a busy and exciting term. The children have all been so amazing this half term. They have performed so beautifully in plays, assemblies, church services and sing alongs. Please see below to see what else we have been getting up to this half term. It certainly has been a fun half term. We always so proud of our PTM team of children. Thank you to our amazing staff who have worked so hard this term to give the children so many experiences. Thank you our lovely parents and children for all our Christmas gifts. It really is nice to see how much your appreciate our school staff.

December launched our Christmas Advent Calendar. This year the theme was self care. Please remember all children and families should look after themselves as well as others. Please hand in any completed calendars when we return in January. We always have a focus on mental health and Wellbeing. Please always come and ask us if you or your children are struggling in anyway. We are able to signpost you to the support you can receive. Next half term we will be taking part in Mental Health Week and there will be a wellbeing school disco as part of this week run by FOPTM.

We have been very lucky with funding from Charities over this term to support children and families in our school. We had over £3000 to support families with ASDA vouchers as part of the winter warmth food funding. This was all FSM, EYPP, FEEE2 and PP children and £20 Asda vouchers were issued to those families to help support over the Christmas period. We also had a £1000 to support families with winter PJs and hats, gloves and scarves. 80 children were offered this across the school and around 50 children took up this offer. We also received 10 slow cookers and food parcels from Rainbow Services for some families and some lovely Christmas presents and more Christmas food was provided to us for 38 nominated children from The Kids Inspire charity. Wonde vouchers for the Christmas holidays were issued this week for £60 per child who is FSM, EYPP or FEEE2. If any families are struggling we are always here to help and support can always be given to anyone needing it. Please just come in and see us. We still have some Winter warmth clothing funding to be able to offer out.

Councillor Eddie Johnson, County Councillor for Harlow South East has also been supporting the school with some extra funding for our breakfast club, Tree House provision and to support our OPAL play project. We are looking forward to spending this over the next term. Please read below for an update on our OPAL project, this is an exciting time for the school.

We are pleased to let you know that on the 1st January 2024 Pear Tree Mead Academy will be joining PCLC MAT- (Passmores Co-operative Learning Community Multi Academy Trust.) This will open up some exciting opportunities for our children and we will share these with you over the rest of the year. Some of our school policies will be changing to PCLC polices, these will be shared on our new school website which will be launched early next year. We will let your know when this will be

happening so that you can view the new page and our lovely new photos that we taken last month. As part of the move to PCLC we will be changing over to their house system. Please look out for our Parentmail about this.

On behalf of the staff and Governors at Pear Tree Mead we wish you a very Merry Christmas and a restful holiday. We look forward to welcoming you back on the 4th January 2024.

What's coming up next term?

4th January - Start of the new term

4th January - Current pre school/nursery children return to school

5th - Poppy House - non uniform day for being the house winners for Autumn 2023

8th January - New nursery children to start

8th January - Science week

15th January - Fund raise for Streets 2 Homes - wear the brightest happiest colours and clothes to cheer everyone up. £1 to be donated to charity. 'Give' is one of the 5 ways to wellbeing so giving to charity is good for our mental health - on 'Blue Monday'

15th January - Year 3 Home Safety talk

23rd January - FOPTM Film Night - After School (further information to follow)

25th January - Sibling Photo day, individual photos for Reception, Nursery and pre school children. There will be after school group shots for anyone that would like to attend at 3:15pm in the small hall who may want photos taken of siblings that do not attend PTM.

26th January - Inset day - School closed to all pupils

5th February - Mental Health Week

5th February - FOPTM - After School Disco (Further information to be sent out)

15th February - Year 4's to Passmores for a sports event.

16th February - Last day of half term - Normal finish time

16th February - Preloved uniform sale - from 3pm in the small hall

26th February - Back to School

27th and 28th February - FOPTM Mothers and Others Gift Sale - £2.50 for a wrapped gift.

4th - 8th March - RSE Week

7th March - World Book Day - World book day - KS2 to wear a costume from the Little Princess Production, EY and Ks1 to wear book costumes.

7th March - KS2 to watch the live production of the Little Princess.

Mrs Peden

FOPTM Update



It has been a very busy half term for the FOPTM team but what an amazing one! We kicked it off with our spooktacular Halloween Disco which as a massive hit with all the children. It was so lovely seeing them all have an amazing time with all of them being so polite and showing kindness to their friends. A total of £1297.27 was raised. We have another Disco planned in February celebrating mental health week so keep an eye out for updates.

Your children have yet again been getting creative for Christmas with their class fundraising projects that have been on sale before and after school. There has been some great competition among the classes with many wanting to win the class prize for raising the most. Amount is still to be confirmed. Thank you for your support with this project, we around £441.06 (amount still to be paid and confirmed).

Thank you to anyone who bought a raffle ticket for our Christmas raffle. We had some amazing prizes up for grabs. A massive thank you to Harlow Playhouse for donating four tickets to their production of beauty and the beast. We raised £401.63.

We also sold production photos at the Saplings, Nursery and Year1 Christmas productions. All the children performed so well at their productions and FOPTM would like to thank anyone who bought photos. Thanks to you we raised £305.00. A lot of our FOPTM volunteers took advantage of our rewards system and was able to get front row tickets to their children's productions. So don't forget about our rewards system, there are so many things you can claim with your vouchers. We will be back selling photos at the reception production in March.

Onto our biggest event we have done this year, our FOPTM Christmas Bazaar! A lot of hard work and time went into making this event possible so I would like to start with thanking everyone who helped and donated! Thank you all for your support by bringing in teddies, tombola items, chocolates and bottles on the day. We hope your children had the best time at the Bazaar and the children who went to see Father Christmas had a magical experience. A massive shout out to our Santa who came to our rescue at the last minute, we would also like to thank FOPTM volunteers who spent hours decorating the grotto making it look so magical. Not forgetting our year 6 games, how great where

they! £1633.74 was raised! Our next big event is our Easter Fair please keep an eye out for more details.

Our Christmas present sale was a sell out! The children loved choosing presents for their loved ones and we hope when you open your present on Christmas day your will love them just as much. An amazing £735.23 was raised. Our next present sale will be our Mothers & Others present sale for mother's day, more details to follow.

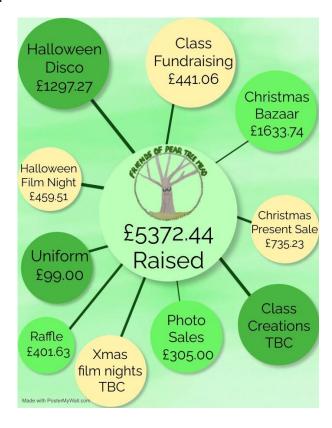
Now for our last event of the Year, Christmas film night. We hope your children enjoyed watching The Grinch. This time we were able to do a quieter viewing, the children very much enjoyed being able to have this option. Amount raised still to be confirmed. We have another film night planned for the end of January.

We are so excited to let you know about this terms spend. Next term we are fundraising for new curtains in the KS1 hall, new outdoor bins for across the school and then our big project of fundraising for the OPAL project.

Once again thank you all for your continued support! Jamie and I would like to say the biggest thank you to the FOPTM team and members of staff that made all of these events possible! It's been so lovely welcoming new parents to our team and we hope to see some more new faces in the new year.

Merry Christmas everyone!

From the FOPTM team





Important Reminders

Lunch Boxes/Snacks

We would like to remind you that we are a nut free school, please ensure you are checking the packaging of items that you are sending in with your children for their snack's and lunch boxes. Please see the poster below with some pictures of items we cannot accept in lunch boxes.

Swearing

Could we please speak to the children about swearing and the effect that swearing can have on others. It has been reported that there are a number of children swearing in the playground before and after school.....

Other reminders

- Dogs are not to be bought on site whether they are on a lead walking or being held.
- Year 5&6 pupils that have permission to walk home are to leave promptly, if this is not adhered to unfortunately we will have to ask parents to collect them.
- 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 use kind and polite language to each other and other adults.
- Please park considerately, be sure not to obstruct pedestrians, and take note of parking restrictions (double yellow lines/blocking entrances/exits)

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.

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 and suitable shoes. Otherwise they may not be able to play outside in the colder months.

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.

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

Nut Products Poster for your information



Reminders

Applications

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

www.essex.gov.uk/admissions

Support for Families

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

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

OPAL UPDATE



We are very excited to share with a new project coming up for the school over this school year. You should have received two letters about this via Parentmail. We have been able to secure some funding to become an OPAL school. This will start in Key Stage 1 and then FOPTM are planning on fundraising to support the project moving across the rest of the school. To find out more about opal please watch this video from an established opal school <u>Amazing Primary Playtime at St Michael's OPAL Platinum School - YouTube</u> or <u>Outdoor Play & Learning | OPAL at Knop Law Primary 2023 - YouTube</u>

We are pleased to give you some more updates on our new and exciting OPAL project.

We have a new play team in place and we have begun our first meetings with the OPAL Leader.

Miss Burke, Miss Rose, Mrs Davies, Mrs Peden, Mrs Webb, Miss Cousins, Mrs Blackburn, Mrs Thorne are all part of our new Play Team. These are the best staff to talk to if you have any play or OPAL questions or can offer any support.

We now also have a play policy which can be found on the school website on the policy section.

To facilitate this project, we will need to buy some new resources, move some things around on the playground and require some loose parts. Loose parts are any materials that can be easily moved, combined, and incorporated into children's free play. The items we are looking for will enable us to enjoy a wider range of play experiences during playtime (see below for some examples):

- Suitcases of any size and type
- Anything on wheels/castors eg balance bikes, scooters + helmets and protectors
- Plastic milk crates/supermarket delivery crates/plastic bread trays
- Briefcases, especially hard cased ones, hand bags
- Road signs and cones
- Kitchen pots, frying pans, pans, baking trays, work tables, wooden spoons, chopping boards

- Tools like small spades/shovels, trowels and brooms
- Tubes of various sizes and various materials
- Large Buckets and watering cans
- Nets and thick ropes
- Dinosaurs, Cars, vehicles, play people
- toy babies, pushchairs etc
- Buckets, spades, sand moulds for using in the sand.
- Keyboards/torches/laptops/calculators/mobile phones/desk phones/webcams/cameras that are no longer working
- Fabric (large sheets/brightly coloured fabric / old curtains)
- Foam sheets/bodyboards/camping roll mats/yoga mats
- Wooden pallets
- Tyres
- Tarpaulin
- Metal frames
- Cable drums, water drums
- Guttering, piping
- Noodles (the type you use in the swimming pool!)
- Hats/scarves/jazzy shirts/elasticated skirts/waistcoats/wedding dresses/character costumes/capes
- Pegs (to help to set up dens)

We will be holding a collection week beginning Monday 8th January. The sooner we do this, the sooner the children will be able to play with the items! Please do not bring your donations in before this date as we will have nowhere to store them. If objects are really large, such as wooden pallets, we will ensure that there is someone available to help you carry them into school.

We are also looking for some volunteers to help us build some of our larger items. We are hoping to dig a large sand pit, make a mud digging area and provide the children with a mud kitchen / messy café which will need making out of pallets. If you would be able to offer us some of your time please email info@peartreemead.essex.sch.uk. We would be interested in talking to any companies that may be able to complete this work for us.

We have been talking to staff, parents and children about Play before the project starts to gather views and opinions. This will be our baseline data and will support the decisions that we make moving forwards.

Keep an eye open for more updates.

What's been going on this half term?

WHAT'S BEEN GOING ON

- On Friday 3rd November, Year 2 had a fantastic morning watching the retelling of The Great Fire of London by Trunk Road Production. Thank you for all of your kind donations.
- Week commencing 13th November we had odd sock day and kindness week. During the week the children learnt about anti-bullying and being kind. They performed random acts of kindness in secret across their classes.
- In Nursery, they spoke about ways that we can be kind and that it's important to use kind hands and feet. They read a story about being kind. The children also did handprints which we will be displayed in class as Kindness bunting. Also, Aspen class have been learning about emotions and they also listened to the story on the IWB 'Rainbow Fish' and then decorated our own fish and talked about the moral of the story.
- On Tuesday 14th November we had an assembly around Anti bullying Assembly with Multi schools alliance. Children in Year 2 Year 6 enjoyed the assembly. They learnt about not being a bystander if they see people being unkind to each other.
- Tuesday 21st November Great Open Door assembly did a Christmas workshop with year 5 &
 6. There was lots of fun and laughter. The children had a wonderful time.
- Year 1 had their nativity on the 28th November, well done to all the children for their amazing performance. We are very proud of them!
- On the 29th November, year 3 the children were transported back in time for the day as they became Neanderthals in the Stone Age. They started the day off with a quick introduction before learning how to hunt mammoths with traps and spears. After that we spent some time comparing skulls, making our own stone age tools and drawing various cave paintings on slate boards. After lunch we became avid hunters as we learnt how to fire bow and arrows at our prey! We ended our day and went home like true stone age children!
- On Thursday 30th November Pre-School had their Sing-along. The children's grown ups came to join the children sing the songs that the children had learnt. They sang Christmas pudding, Twinkle Christmas star, Dancing Christmas tree, When Santa got stuck up the chimney, Jingle, jingle little bell and We wish you a Merry Christmas. After the grown ups stayed and joined in

some Christmas activities. They decorated a biscuit with Christmas sprinkles, painted Christmas decorations and played with Christmas playdough. They all had a great time.

- Pre-School also walked to the local post box with their grown ups to post their letters to Father Christmas. We hope to get a reply.
- Year 1 have been learning about maps and drew routes to the post box. They then followed these routes to post letters to SANTA.
- Ash and Aspen class enjoyed taking part in their Christmas sing-along. Although they were a little nervous, they did ever so well! Everyone enjoyed watching the nursery children perform in their sparkly costumes. The best part was when the children had fun singing and dancing along to the song 'I'm a dancing Christmas Tree.
- Lots of children enjoyed Christmas dinner, they had Mrs Peden, Mrs Davies and Mrs Arnould and the rest of the staff teams serving their meals to them whilst enjoying Christmas music. It was commented at how polite the children were whilst they were being served. Thank you to the governors who then served Christmas dinner to the staff to say thank you.
- Reception parent/carers were invited into school to take part in a Christmas Creative Activity afternoon with their children. The children enjoyed participating in various Christmas activities with their grown ups.
- The year 2 children took part in The Great Fire of London Class assembly last week. They did fantastic and we were so proud of them. It was lovely to see their enthusiasm and present what they have learnt over the last term. Well done! We were pleased to see so many parents attend to watch, we would like to thank you for your support and invaluable assistance with helping the children practicing their lines. We appreciate your support in making this assembly a resounding success.
- On Tuesday 5th December, some of our year 6 children made the journey to Holy Cross school to participate in a friendly football match. Every child that was involved played extremely well and showed amazing resilience against a very good Holy Cross team. We were unable to score in the first half of the match, but after half time we opened the scoring with an amazing strike by Charlie Parker. The year 6 team should be very proud of themselves as they represented Pear Tree Mead amazingly.
- Early years and KS1 children had M&M Theatre company come and perform the pantomime Cinderella. The children thoroughly enjoyed the performance and I am sure they was very excited to tell you all about it after school. Please see some pictures below. Some of the staff were dragged up onto stage too!
- The children enjoyed showcasing their rocksteady performances on Thursday the 14th of December. They did a super job performing for their adults and then for the other children in the school ! Well done !
- Thursday 23rd November, year 4 hosted their art gallery in the hall. This was an opportunity for the class to showcase their hard work to their parents and adults. Year 4 thoroughly enjoyed sharing their art work with their grown ups. The children were delighted to share a range of pieces including architectural drawings, sculptures created using different mediums of clay, soap and junk and art work in the style of Frida Kahlo. The children received some great feedback from the adults about their pieces. Thank you to everyone who came along!

- Well done to our Pupil Leadership team who helped host the Multi Schools Council meeting at Pear Tree Mead.
- The reception children enjoyed walking to the church and listening to Years 5 and 6 practise for their carol service.
- Well done to Sycamore Class for attending Abbots Care home to take part in some Carol singing and some of the Year 6's who went and sung at the St Clare Hospice volunteers Christmas Lunch. We were very proud of you all.
- Well Done to our Year 5 and 6 classes for putting on amazing carol services at St Stephens Church. It was a shame that the rain meant that our younger children were unable to watch
 but they still enjoyed the performances in the school hall. The children sang beautifully and lit Christingles to remind us of the true meaning of Christmas.
- The whole school participated in the Christmas tree competition. This year the theme was Christmas songs. Well done to Beech and Saplings classes who were the winners. Please see each classes entries below.
- A big well done to Mulberry class who raised £95 with their class creations. They celebrated today. Thank you to all parents who helped out with the whole school craft creations sale this year.



1 - Multi School Council meeting with our PLT

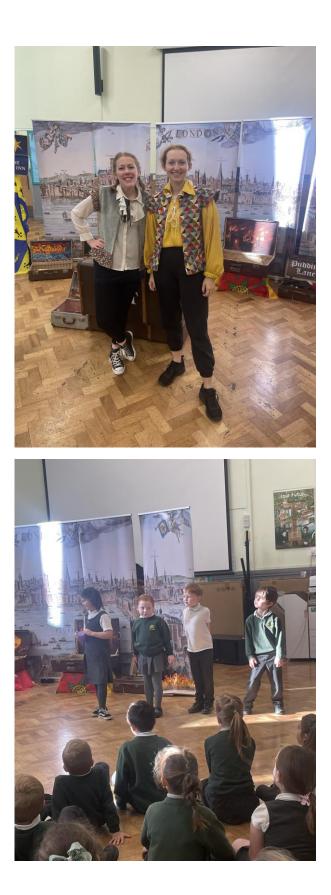


2 - Great Fire of London Workshop



















3 - Reception Parents Christmas Creative Afternoon







4 - Year 4 Art Exhibition









5 - Christmas Dinner Time





6 - Stone Age Workshop Day

















7 - Pre School Sing-a-long







8 - Pre School walk to the post box





9 - Singing at St Clare Hospice







10 - Year 2 Great Fire of London Class Assembly





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11 - Football Team





















12 - Year 4 Art Gallery















13 - Christmas Tree Competition









































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14 - +6

Walk to School Scheme

Just in case you were unaware, Pear Tree Mead have been participating in a Walk to School scheme which encourages children to earn badges for taking an active journey to school. We understand that it is not possible for everybody to walk, scooter or bike to school, however the scheme offers a park and ride option for your child to choose.

Park and riding to school promotes a healthier lifestyle for children and lowers congestion in and around our school area.

Please continue to participate in active journeys to school which will allow your child to earn badges.

Thank You

Thank you to FOPTM who kindly gave each class £50 for wet play toys. The children were very excited to pick out some new toys to enjoy with their class friends.



Attendance for Autumn Term

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

Remembrance Sale

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



Staff Information

Mrs Travers-Knott in the office has left this term - I hope you will all join me in wishing her all the best. Please be aware that the office will be managing with one less staff member. So please be kind if you come in to visit the office.

Miss White also left us this half term. I'm sure she will enjoy her new challenge and we all wish her well. Mrs Busher started to take on her roles as LSA and Nurture staff. Mrs P has taken over the running of nurture group.

Miss Riordan is leaving us at the end of the term. Mrs Littlechild from PCLC will be supporting us with the SENDCo role and Mrs Thurgood will be taking on the role of Inclusion Manager at school overseeing SEND at PTM. We are currently looking for a new assistant SENDCo.

We also welcome Mrs Hewitt into Reception and Miss Jeffreys into Pre school. In January we also welcome Mrs Thomas and Mrs Gilbody to support our extra Nursery children starting.

Parent Information Links

Are you planning on giving your child a new games console, mobile phone, tablet, or computer game this Christmas? Or do you have friends or family who are?

Visit <u>www.essex.police.uk/sortyoursettings</u> for practical things you can do to help make your child's new device safer when they are online.

#StaySafe

Below is the link for information on School policy changes and any other information we feel is useful to parents.

Parent Information



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

Dear Interested party,

The Governing Board of Pear Tree Mead are currently consulting on the school's Admissions Policy for admission to the school in the academic year 2025/2026. The statutory consultation period is open for 6 weeks from Monday 20th November 2023 and and will close Monday 1st January 2024.

In criteria 3 Children of permanent staff who have been employed for more than 2 years at Pear Tree Mead has been added.

- 1. Looked After Children (as defined below).
- 2. Children with a sibling attending the school.

3. Children of a permanent member of staff who has been employed to work at Pear Tree Mead Academy for two years or more at the time of application

- 4. Children living in the priority admission area.
- 5. Remaining applications.

Please send any comments on this consultation by post to:

Mrs Kate Townsend

Pear Tree Mead Academy

Harlow Essex

CM18 7BY

or email:Kate.townsend@peartreemead.essex.sch.uk

Gardeners Needed



Do you have green fingers and enjoy being in the garden?

Do you have a few hours to spare a week to help out?

We are looking for a small group of volunteers (parents or other family) to help out at school to make our school grounds look tidy, kept and beautiful. We have just received some funding for some new adult gardening equipment too!

Volunteers would be asked to Water and weed pots and plants Weed areas around the school Keep the allotment tidy and in good working order Pot and plant flowers, vegetables and plants

If you would be interested in helping out on a regular basis you would need to be DBS checked.

Please pop into the office and let them know you would be able to help.

We will then get in touch.



If you have any questions or need any more information please contact us. Please use our communication flow chart to find out who you need to speak to. More information can be found about staff on our website. https://www.peartreemead.essex.sch.uk/about-us/meet-the-team/

Pear Tree Mead Academy

Harlow

Essex CM18 7BY

01279 836181

For general enquiries please email info@peartreemead.essex.sch.uk

For complaints, concerns, admissions or attendance enquires please email kate.townsend@peartreemead.essex.sch.uk

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 <u>info@peartreemead.essex.sch.uk</u> 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 Calander and more school information at www.peartreemead.essex.sch.uk

On behalf of myself and all of the staff at Pear Tree Mead we would like thank you all for your lovely gifts and to wish you all Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

