

Pear Tree Mead Academy

Educating children 2 – 11

Pear Tree Mead, Harlow, CM18 7BY

☎ 01279 836181 Fax 01279 423504

headteacher@peartreemead.essex.sch.uk

Head Teacher Mrs C. Peden BA(Ed) (Hons)

Deputy Headteacher

Assistant Head Mrs Rebecca Arnould BA (Hons) PGCE
LLB (Hons) (PGCE)

Chair of Governors Mrs W Beckett

Mrs L Davies BA (ChEd)

SEND Co & Head of Early Years Mrs S Martin



July 2021

Dear Parents,

I am pleased to provide you with our Annual Statement on behalf of the whole Governing Board at Pear Tree Mead Academy.

I think it's been fair to say that this academic year has continued where the last year left off – totally different to anything we'd have wished to see. It's been a really hard year as Governors as we have been unable to resume our usual Governor activities, and most contact with the school has understandably had to be conducted virtually.

Firstly, on behalf of the Governors, I'd like to thank you and the children for all your support over the last year, sticking to wearing masks on school grounds, following the one-way systems, and the children being so resilient in the face of lockdowns. It's been so heartening to hear how well our school community has pulled together in this. As I write this, the next steps in relaxing restrictions is expected on 19th July, and I ask that you bear with the school until this date in sticking to requirements until Government restrictions relax. The school will continue to make decisions based on their risk assessments, and the number of cases in the school or local area.

As Governors, we are disappointed that we haven't been able to see the children's hard work first hand but we have had regular monitoring contact with staff via email and as part of our meetings which has kept us up to date. Hopefully in September, we'll be able to start planning visits into school again, which will give us a better view of everyone's efforts.



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As with last year, with the pandemic, our usual school life has been disrupted significantly. The Governing Board is indebted to all the staff who have pulled together during the last year to make sure the children receive the best education and support possible. As a Governing Board, the pandemic has meant we have needed to continue using different ways of meeting. Monitoring has taken place via email so we have been kept up to date with progress as necessary. We have continued to meet using Zoom and MS Teams. Whilst it is no substitute for meeting face to face and being able to go in to school, it has meant we have been able to keep all of our Board meetings up to date.

As in previous years, the Governing Board continues to have two main committees, each with specific areas of responsibility – the Personnel, Curriculum and Community Committee, and the Finance, Premises and Audit Committee. We also have smaller committees to look at areas such as staff pay, and Headteacher’s Performance Management. Attendance at our meetings, particularly given we have had to learn to use new technology, has been good throughout the year.

The Governing Board continue to adhere to the Code of Conduct as well as our own terms and articles of association. We are committed towards continual improvement so that we maintain a role in providing strong strategic direction to the school. The Governing Board continue to be fully committed to supporting the Headteacher with the daily running of the school and supporting all our staff. This means we continue to act as “critical friend”, providing challenge and critique as needed and as appropriate, to ensure that our children receive the best education we can supply.

This year we sadly said goodbye to Stephanie Wise, who has been a long-standing Board member for some time. Her experience will be sorely missed. As a Board, we are also saying goodbye to one of our staff governors, Mrs McCombie, who is standing down from the Board – although she will still be at school. Their work for the Board has been greatly appreciated and they will be missed. We hope that in the next academic year, we are able to welcome new Governors to our numbers.



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We are keen to have other parents or community members join our waiting list for future Governor vacancies when they arise, and are happy to have a chat with you if you would like to find out more. Please leave your details at the school office and we will get back to you as soon as we are able. Just for information – you **don't** have to be a professionally qualified person – whilst there will always be skills we look for, we need you to be keen and interested in getting involved, and able to spare some time during the month for meetings and learning walks. Training is supplied. If you might be interested, but are not sure if you'd be suitable, please contact the office so that we can arrange to speak to you to answer any questions you may have. We are looking to build a list of interested people whom we can approach if there are any future vacancies.

Please make sure you download and use the school App if you can – we are now a paperless school. (I understand many senior schools work on this basis already). If you have any issues, let the school know. Make sure you check and read all information issued, as it may be important for your child.

I would like to remind you that if you have any concerns or queries, the first point of contact must always be your child's class teacher. Please follow the contact charts that are available. We have this chain of contacts in place for a reason – to ensure your issues are addressed quickly and appropriately. It also means that if you need to escalate queries, you have a correct route to follow.

I wish our departing staff and Year 6 children every success as they move on to the next chapter in their lives. I hope that you all have a good summer, please stay safe and well.

Wendy Beckett
Chair of Governors.

