



# Pear Tree School

*Achieving the Best We Can in Everything We Do*

## Newsletter

### Spring 1 - 2023

#### In this newsletter

- . Introduction
- . Attendance
- . Creative Curriculum - Dreams
- . Preparation for Adulthood
- . Open Afternoon
- . Parent Governor
- . Dates for diaries

# Introduction

Another busy half term is nearly at the end and I have been really pleased by how well all the children have settled back into learning following the Christmas break. It is really exciting to see the Upper School pupils begin rehearsals for their Easter performance – Wesham Side Story, and I was lucky enough to be invited to join the auditioning panel. What a lot of talent we have here at Pear Tree!

Another exciting change in school has been the introduction of our new school website. Thank you for your support by getting on board with the changes here. I am sure that life will now be a lot more simple regarding communication between school and home. The new school film is also on there and we are just in the process of changing all of our photographs around the school which we hope will reflect our whole school values.

**At Pear Tree School, we want our children and young people to be able to:**

**Progress in their knowledge and learning, developing skills of resilience taught by highly skilled staff**  
**Effectively communicate with others and be listened to**  
**Aspire to be as independent as they possibly can be**  
**Remain happy, healthy and safe**

**Take responsibility for their own learning and behaviour**  
**Retain an understanding of the world around them and be respected as part of their community**  
**Engage in building relationships filled with respect, kindness and love**  
**Enter into adulthood with confidence**

**WE WILL NEVER DO SOMETHING FOR CHILDREN THAT THEY HAVE THE CHANCE OF DOING FOR THEMSELVES**

With the warmest of wishes

Kate



## Attendance

Just before Christmas, all parents received an attendance report for their son/daughter. Like you, we have very high expectations for our pupils and recognise that when well enough, all pupils need to be in school so that they can make as much progress as they are able to. As I stated in the letter, we fully understand that for some of our children, their complex health needs means that their attendance can at times dip. Please be assured that these letters were sent to all parents and were not targeted at specific individuals. We will be sending them out at the end of every term as another way of informing all parents of their son/daughter's attendance. The number of children persistently absent from school has increased significantly over the past couple of years and it is important that we all work together to reduce the number of absences across the school. Thank you for your continued support with this.

# Creative Curriculum Dreams

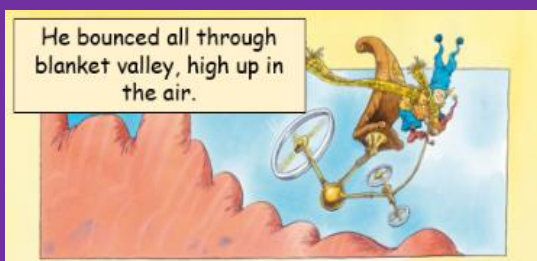


This half term's creative curriculum theme throughout the main school has centred on *dreams*. Pupils were introduced to the theme during our inspiration day at the very start of the spring term. During this inspiration day, pupils from across the school arrived in their pyjamas and gained inspiration from immersing themselves in an interactive dreamland linked to the story '*The Emperor of Absurdia*'.

Each class arrived in the hall and tucked themselves up in bed to listen to their teacher reading a bedtime story. Part way through this, when the main character drifts off into a dream, the pupils all moved into the hall to immerse themselves in all of the interactive experiences that this character took part in when in this wonderful dream world! Examples of this included getting messy when creating bowls of 'dream cereal', decorating blue flying fish, dressing up as an array of dreamland characters as well as using their physical skills to bounce through 'blanket valley' just like in the story itself.

Throughout the half term, classes developed their understanding of this theme across the curriculum. Some of our lower school pupils have enjoyed taking part in shared readings of the text *Dreams in a jar*. These pupils have even had the opportunity to create their own dream jars before working towards developing their creative writing skills when thinking of a range of wonderful and exciting things that they would like to add to their jar to appear in their dreams.

Some of the older pupils however have used the '*Mae Amongst the Stars*' text to learn about letter writing. They have applied phonic knowledge to blend sounds into words and simple sentences and learnt about the format of a letter. They used this to write their own letter of explanation to the teacher in the story, to give detail about why being an astronaut would be better than being a nurse.



# Preparation for Adulthood



In everything we do in school, we are always looking at how to best prepare our students for adulthood, from developing our skills in lower school to applying these skills in different functional learning situations in school. When our students enter the 14-19 department, there is more of a focus upon developing skills for a healthy lifestyle, skills for life at home and skills for employment and being part of the community.

In the 14-19 Department, Employability sessions take place once a week for students who it is appropriate for. This session is about preparing our young people for employment and supporting them to develop their skills and awareness of their options after Pear Tree. This term the Employability group have been looking at the principles of the Skills Builder tool and working on developing their skills in speaking and listening, developing their creativity, working on solving problems, developing resilience and remaining positive and setting goals. An example of the types of activities that have been linked were inventing a new recipe for a desert toasties. In this activity the students had to come up with an idea, create the idea and evaluate its success. When learning about problem solving, the students looked at simple problems initially, which were easy to overcome and had straightforward potential solutions. As they developed their knowledge, they then looked at complex problems, which required more in-depth thinking skills. This encouraged independent thinking skills and students were encouraged to challenge their thoughts whilst being aware that there is not always one answer to a problem.



Our students then move onto applying their learnt skills in functional work situations. The students have access to our Bistro session. These sessions encourages students to apply the principles of the skills builder in practical situations to help give even more support to developing their employability with the hopes that soon we will be able to open to the local community.

For our students who employment is not the right pathway for post Pear Tree, we focus upon developing life skills; all students have access to functional skills or independent living sessions along with a rich curriculum that offers plenty of opportunity to develop communication skills. Our sensory communication session is a multi-sensory approach, which enables our students to control the world around them and encourages them to express their preferences by accessing sessions such as sensory story, cooking and attention autism. All of these sessions are curated around developing independence in communication and preparing our students for their next steps in life.



# Open Afternoon

We will be holding our Open Afternoons again next half term. This is a wonderful opportunity for you to spend some time in class to observe and support some learning activities alongside the class team. Following the time in class, we will be hosting a Computing session for parents, which will demonstrate ways in which you can support your child to keep safe online and also an opportunity for you to observe the different resources we use within school to support our Computing curriculum. I know that this will be a very informative and engaging event, and look forward to seeing you there.



# Parent Governor

We are still looking to recruit a parent to join our Governing Body. Being a Parent Governor will involve attending 6 meetings throughout the year and working alongside the school to ensure our children receive the best education possible. Parent Governors are vital in ensuring that all parents are given a voice within the strategic direction and planning of the school. Please could I ask that you all consider whether you have the capacity to take on this crucial role and if you would like to discuss it further then please contact Fiona Wafer (Business Manager) for more details.





# Dates for diaries

Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> February	School closes for half term
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> February	School re-opens
Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> February 1pm – 2.30pm	Open Afternoon for lower school (Seedlings, Bay Tree, Maple Tree, Pine Tree) followed by Computing session for parents in the Hall
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> March 1pm – 2.30pm	Open Afternoon for upper school (Elm Tree, Oak Tree, Sixth Form) followed by Computing session for parents in the Hall (Compass Centre parents will be contacted separately)
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> March 9.15am	Oak Tree Class Assembly
Wednesday 29 <sup>th</sup> March	Upper School Performance of 'Wesham Side Story'. More information to follow
Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> March	School closes for Easter

