



# Pear Tree School

*Achieving the Best We Can in Everything We Do*

## Newsletter

### Summer 2 - 2022

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# General

I am sat writing my final comments to you all on the hottest day of the year so far, and whilst I would like it to be slightly cooler, I remain hopeful that we will all be able to enjoy some sunny days over the next few weeks.

This year has been one of many ups and downs. COVID-19 has still managed to disrupt things on occasions, however it has been truly wonderful to be able to once again re-open up our school and welcome you all back in. Open Evening was a fabulous opportunity to see so many of you and it was great to finally meet many of you in a face to face situation rather than on zoom.

In the new academic year, I have plans for lots more parental engagement events and I can't wait to give you all more opportunities to work in partnership with the school and help to shape our future.

Thank you so much for all of your support over the past 12 months and we can't wait to see all the children once again in September. Check out the end of the newsletter for those important back to school dates.

With the warmest of wishes

Kate



## Attendance

It is crucial that children attend school and are punctual for their learning to begin. During lockdown we offered some flexibility with the start and end of the school day to avoid lots of people congregating at the front entrance. Thank you to everyone who has now moved back to our original start and end times and from September it is important that all children are at school for the beginning of the school day. Children missed out on a lot of direct teaching time during the pandemic, and we must have them in school to enable them all to reach their true potential.

**Our school day begins at 8.50am and finishes at 3pm. All children must adhere to these timings please.**

In addition to daily attendance, please can I remind you that any holiday booked within term time will not be authorised unless it is for exceptional circumstances. When considering authorisation of a holiday, I do take into account the pupil's current attendance level and would ask you to always aim to book your holidays within the school holidays. More recently, some parents have not requested for their child to be off school to go on a holiday which does cause some safeguarding concerns if we do not know where children are. To request a holiday during term time, it remains that you must put the request in writing to myself with an explanation of the exceptional circumstances.



# New School website

By the time school re-opens in September we hope to be well on our way to sharing our new school website with you. Whilst many of the sections in our current website will remain, such as our lovely short film, we aim to tie all of our online communications together, in an easy to use format, through this new website. In your feedback from the questionnaire I recently sent out, some parents commented that they felt we now have too many different ways in which we communicate and that sometimes, things can get lost. Whilst we will still have our Facebook page, texts and emails, this will all be managed through our website and we look forward to presenting this to you with new photographs in the Autumn term.

## Goodbye and Good Luck

It is that time of year again when we have to say Good bye to some of our pupils. James, George, Amy, William and Danny will all be leaving us this week for pastures new. They have all individually had such an amazing journey with us at Pear Tree and I know I speak for all the staff when I wish them so much love and luck for their futures.

Paula (PE) has made the decision to retire following 39 years of service to Pear Tree – that is a huge commitment. Paula will be greatly missed for her fully inclusive PE sessions, creativity during shows and being an all round positive person, championing all of our children to be the very best they can be.

A number of other support staff are moving onto new roles this summer and we hope that they will take a little bit of Pear Tree positivity with them and remember us fondly. They will all be missed.



## Janet's coffee morning

We had a lovely morning to celebrate the life of our much missed friend and colleague Janet Lawrenson on 18<sup>th</sup> July. A cake and coffee morning was held to raise money for the Alzheimer's Society and we raised a grand total of £412. It was a very special morning and we were so pleased to welcome some of Janet's family, friends and colleagues to share their memories of Janet. Thank you to the staff who organised this event and to everyone else for donating and purchasing cakes.



# MADD Week

This half term we have been focusing upon 'Our Diverse Community' during our bi-annual MADD week (Music, Art, Dance and Drama week.) Each class came off timetable for the week and have been developing their skills in these subjects, but also broadening their knowledge and celebrating the differences we have in our community. We had visits from Tramshed Theatre Company, Dance Syndrome, Dave, Chris and Dawn from Kirkham Heritage Project and Rakesh from Preston City Mela.

Our students were fully immersed in these visits and after a few years of restriction's it was wonderful to celebrate the arts once again and allow visits from some outstanding professionals who made it such a fabulous week. Within their classes, the students were able to complete a range of art work and each child in school created a personalised 'leaf' which celebrated their community and was put on a huge whole school art tree.

We got very messy outside creating class canvas' using water squirters and spray guns filled with paint, and the end results were brilliant! We even donated one in our recent PTFA raffle and it was one of the first prizes to be picked, which just goes to show how unique and wonderful it was.

Our week culminated in a Trashy Fashion show in which all classes used old clothing and recycling to design, create and styled a range of outfits which they showcased by strutting down our catwalk, they were incredible. Overall it was a wonderful week, filled with magical, creative and wonderful moments and we can't wait until the next one!





# Green Tree Festival

As part of Compass Centre's Functional Skills sessions this term, their aim was to create a whole school festival. All students rose to the challenge creating an inclusive festival, working together including deciding on the name, resourcing various activities (including soak the teacher and tin can alley), to asking for donations of food from our Local Morrison's. It was a great success and it was lovely to see a lot of pupils from across the whole school taking part. We were all very proud of all the Compass Centre students and look forward to rising to the challenge again next year!



## Dates for diaries

Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> July	School closes for summer break
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> September	School re-opens for pupils
Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> September	Maple Tree Class Assembly
Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> October	Open Afternoon for Upper School including a phonics/reading presentation for parents
Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> October	Open Afternoon for Lower School including a phonics/reading presentation for parents
Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> October	School closes for half term break

