



Pear Tree School

Achieving the Best We Can in Everything We Do

Newsletter

Spring 2 – 2023

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Introduction

Finally we are seeing glimmers of Spring arriving. The days are now getting longer and the weather (slightly) warmer. It has been a fun half term in school, particularly for the Upper School who have been creating their production of Wesham Side Story. So much hard work goes into these productions and I can see from the children's faces how much they have been enjoying it. Thank you to all the staff who have gone above and beyond to make the show a success and to demonstrate our high aspirations for each and every child involved.

I hope you all have a lovely Easter break and I look forward to seeing all the children again on 17th April.

With the warmest of wishes

Kate



Open Afternoon

Thank you to all of our parents and families who attended our Open Afternoon this half term. It was very well attended and I hope that all those that were able to come benefitted from some time in the classroom and meeting the staff. Unfortunately, the online safety workshop was not as well attended which was a great shame as it was a very informative event. Feedback from some parents was that it might be worthwhile altering the timings of the next sessions, so I will look into that to hopefully enable more parents to attend – watch this space!

Opportunities at Pear Tree

We will be hosting an Open Recruitment Afternoon on Tuesday 25th April at Pear Tree. We have a number of job vacancies including Teaching Assistants, Early Years Apprenticeships and a mini bus driver. We are inviting anyone who would like to know more about the opportunities of working in a special school to pop in for coffee and cake and find out a bit more about us from our fabulous staff team. I would really appreciate it if you would share this with friends and family to help us to continue to grow our amazing staff team.



Creative Curriculum

This half term, our inspiration theme has been Imagination! Each class had lots of strange happenings leading up to our inspiration day, whereby each day, something different had appeared in the classroom which encouraged all of our learners to use their imaginations. On our inspiration day itself, classrooms were magically transformed linked to a class text for that half term.



In Bay Tree class they have been reading the story 'Treasures in the Garden'. Pupils have thoroughly enjoyed exploring the exciting environments used within the book and on inspiration day they were immersed in some of the different settings that appear within the story itself including a pirate ship, a mermaid cove under the sea and a dragon's tea party. Pupils also blasted off into space and enjoyed riding scooter board rockets around the space themed assault course within class!



Maple Tree Class had a dinosaur egg that hatched in their class, they talked about what we thought it was and where we thought it had come from. The next day the egg had hatched and had turned the sensory area into a dinosaur land. This linked into an ice age themed book 'How to wash a woolly mammoth', linked to the literacy theme of instructions. They followed instructions in many different ways linked to keeping clean and we wrote their own version of the text.

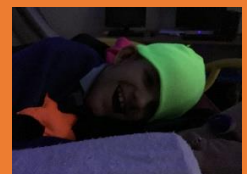


For Pine Tree's Imagination Inspiration Day, the children entered a decorated classroom with ideas taken from our Literacy focus texts, fantasy themed shape poetry including an Under the Water and ghost themed area. We immersed ourselves in each poem, using props and costumes to support our learning. As a class they took time to explore the different areas around the classroom that we had created and took part in activities relating to each area, lots of fun was had and there was plenty of evidence of imagination throughout the poetry created.



Elm Tree class entered class on inspiration day to a monkey/vineleaf takeover all around class and some mysterious footprints across the floor! They spend some time thinking of what characters and what the location might be in their book based on the clues around class before looking at some "CCTV photos from the night before from Dale." This showed an enormous crocodile in class and monkeys hanging from all the cupboards! This really excited the children and helped them remember some of the characters in the book. It brought the idea of the crocodile "looking for children to gobble up" to life as they thought it had been looking for them in class (as well as being relieved it has gone into the sun so it couldn't eat any more children!) They loved the idea of animals in the class so it really helped motivate them to think of other animals that might be in the story if we changed some of the characters!

In Oak Tree Class, the students were looking at play scripts which linked in with our Upper School Production of Wesham Side Story. On the Friday, the students entered Oak Tree to find it transformed into a disco theme, this really immersed them into their class part in the production! This inspired them to understand their role and become the best disco dancers Kirkham had ever seen and if you saw the production, I'm sure you'd agree!



Preparation for Adulthood - Travel Training

Travel training sessions begin at year 7 for students at Pear Tree. Broadly the curriculum focuses around road and personal safety awareness, strongly emphasising taking personal ownership for our behaviours in order to keep safe. Being part of the wider world, playing an active and integral part of it and not merely following is essential in developing self-esteem and building strong resilient young people whom are not only aware of the world but are confident around others and in the community. Pear tree students are therefore encouraged at every opportunity to speak up in whatever way they can, to ask questions, ask directions, state wants and likes, request snacks all with the intention of nurturing confidence that our students can take into adulthood and for some feasibly the workplace.

Learning about how to take buses and trains to access the community is realistically the only way that our learners are going to be able to find a level of independence when they reach adulthood. Having lots of experience of train and bus stations, using public transport knowing where to sit, and understanding who might be “safer” to talk to or ask help from are all essentially skills that equip Pear Tree pupils to live as independent life as possible. Travel trainees are offered lots of opportunities to travel to varied destinations around the North West, visiting big cities, museums, shops and restaurants. These visits not only consolidate road and travel safety knowledge but also provide cultural and world experiences that are critical in developing enfranchised members of our wider and diverse society.



Preparation for Adulthood – Work Experience

We have some really exciting work experience opportunities for our Sixth Form students, working with businesses throughout our local community. Ribby hall and Booths have both offered placements for a group to experience working in Retail within their local branches. This will give our students a look inside how the shop works and expose them to the intricacies of the working day and routine. Importantly, it will expose them to business/customer interactions and the customer relationship built in retail. Pancake Hut in Ribby Hall have offered placement working within catering, exposing them to the health and safety aspects of that business, and the preparation and cleanliness standards required in the food industry. Wrea Green Holiday Let have offered placements within the cleaning and servicing aspects of their holiday lettings business. This can expose students to the cleanliness standards expected within the hospitality sector.

These fantastic opportunities given to us by the local community enables our students to incorporate functional skills and independent living skills, and offers them the opportunity to build on their time management and confidence within the work place environment.

Website contributions

I am looking to further develop our school website with comments from our parents. I would really appreciate it if you could fill in the attached slip to tell us in one sentence something about Pear Tree and the difference we have made to you and your son/daughter. This can either be a general statement or about one particular event/experience.



Dates for diaries

Friday 31st March

Break up for Easter

Monday 17th April

School re-opens

Tuesday 25th April 1pm – 2.30pm and 3.30pm – 5pm

Open Recruitment Afternoon

Monday 1st May

School closed for Bank Holiday

Monday 8th May

School closed for Bank Holiday (Coronation)

Friday 12th May 9.15am

Bay Tree Class Assembly

Tuesday 16th May 9.30am

Upper School Open MORNING

Tuesday 23rd May 9.30am

Lower School Open MORNING

Friday 26th May

Break up for Half Term

Tear off slip

Please return your comment for the school website to school. This can be kept anonymous.

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If you would prefer to email us your comment, please send it to admin@peartree.lancs.sch.uk