



# Pear Tree School

*Achieving the Best We Can in Everything We Do*

## Newsletter

### Spring 2 - 2024

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# Introduction

How lovely to be writing this email as the Spring sunshine floods through my office window. Watching the children enjoy the improved weather conditions whilst outside at playtime has been joyous and it is a great opportunity for them to mix with other children from across school.

I hope that those of you who were able to, enjoyed coming in for the recent Open Mornings. It was lovely to see so many of you in school and I hope it is a good way of demonstrating what goes on in a typical session in class. I know the staff really appreciate these events as it allows them to interact with yourselves alongside the children and to continue to build positive relationships. I hope you are all looking forward to joining us again for the Open Afternoons in May.

I would like to wish you all a very Happy Easter and I look forward to continue working with you into the summer term.

With the warmest of wishes

Kate



## Sad news

Sadly I have to share with you the news of the passing of Jim Scoular, a member of our site team. Jim was a colourful character who completed his cleaning to a very high standard. He will be greatly missed by the school community and our thoughts are with his family at this sad time.

## Good bye

Sam Barrow has been the Assistant Practitioner within the nursing team based at Pear Tree for a considerable number of years and has made the decision to step down from this role at the end of term. Although employed through the NHS, Sam has always felt like a member of Pear Tree staff team and I know she will have supported so many of you and your children over the years. She has provided extensive knowledge, support and care to all our children and we are all going to miss her so much. Sam's last day at Pear Tree will be on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March and we wish her a very happy and positive future.

## Congratulations

Vicky Gwilliams (Oak Tree) is due to get married over the Easter break and the whole school community would like to wish her and Simon a very happy future together.

## Welcome

Vinnie Cunningham has recently joined us as the new Site Manager. Vinnie has had extensive experience in the construction trade and he is delighted to be working at Pear Tree in this role. He is already loving meeting all the children and his smiling face is a joy to have around the school.

# 14 – 19 Curriculum

## Compass Centre

In Compass Centre the curriculum is always evolving to ensure that it best meets pupil's needs and is bespoke to ensure they learn skills leading to maximum independence in adult life once they leave us. There is a high focus on regulation and sensory input to help learners learn strategies they can transfer to their life in the community and cope with the changes as they leave for college or adult services support. The curriculum has been adapted to ensure we facilitate maximum communication development and opportunities to increase learner's levels of independence within tasks useful for their later lives, such as cooking, personal hygiene, self-organisation skills and functional skills. We also facilitate community access through a range of different appropriate excursions where learners can work on their social communication, co-regulating and regulating in different environments, and danger awareness which are crucial skills they will need.

## Sixth Form

The Sixth Form's preparation for Adulthood Curriculum encompasses four key areas :

- Employment and future options
- Being part of the Community
- Skills for a Healthy Lifestyle
- Skills for life at home

This academic year I have focused on using a range of local people to enhance our Sixth Form offer and help prepare students for adult life after Pear Tree School.

For the semi-formal and formal learners within the group, I have used the Department for Work and Pensions to deliver employability sessions focussed on interview techniques as well as understanding strengths and personal areas for development. I have also used our local sports club AFC Fylde to deliver some employability sessions, where the pupils have learnt about the vast array of jobs needed to run a successful club and local community. They have then worked on team building and communication skills, which are essential in all areas of employment and further learning opportunities, which is the intended pathway for this group of pupils.



As part of staying healthy and safe, I have used Fylde Coast Women's Aid to deliver sessions around what healthy relationships look like in the family home and romantically as well as online relationships.



For semi-formal and pre-formal learners, I have increased community access by introducing a new community engagement lesson, utilising Mark's expertise as the travel training co-ordinator to ensure students develop the skills required to talk to new people in new settings and grow in confidence in community environments. The aim of this is to support a smooth transition into adulthood and accessing local day service or supported living options in the future.

There have been a range of other community projects this year such as supporting with the organisation of food boxes for the local community, upcycling at the Re-Use Hub in Preston and developing vocational skills and experience at a local farm. All of this engagement is aimed at developing student confidence whilst also promoting how much value our students can add to society and the wider world whilst raising the aspirations for all involved.



# Creative Curriculum All Around the World



This half term we have been 'All Around the World' with our Creative Curriculum theme. This started with us travelling across the continents for our Inspiration Day, we visited one another's classrooms to explore what life was like in those countries, we sampled food, climbed trees and mountains and learnt dances from other countries. This was the introduction of the topic which then inspired the literacy reading, the theme of numeracy and has been woven through all the other subjects where possible.

Our theme has focused upon Music, Art, Dance and Drama (MADD) which was all finalised with our exciting End. This was a weeklong affair as we all took part in our bi-annual MADD week. MADD week has a focus upon creativity, where we come off timetable to focus upon developing our imaginations and experiencing extraordinary things, which



help to inspire and motivate all our learners. We are visited by a wide range of professionals and our sessions in class are all arts focussed. This year we had professionals from Preston Asian Art festival deliver a flower making workshop, where our learners made flower headbands, necklaces and bracelets. We had dance sessions from Paula, Splat Art sessions with Alex where our learners made sunset canvas', All Around the World Drama sessions with Arron, Drumming with John Morrow, Zumba with Andy and finished with a carnival with dancers in the hall. This week has such an enormous impact on our learners and not only do our young people produce some incredible creations but they all have the opportunity to experience something incredible that doesn't discriminate, is accessible to all and helps to open up the world to all our learners.





# Pear Tree Developments

As you will now be aware, we are very excited to be increasing our capacity at Pear Tree in the summer term. 10 new Reception age pupils will be joining us and they will be educated in the short term at Weeton Primary School. The Local Authority have now secured the purchase of the old social services buildings at the front of our site and the annex building at the side will be refurbished to allow us increased accommodation in the autumn term. This should all have a limited impact on our current cohort and we will be sure to inform you of any new developments.

We are proud that the Local Authority have identified the positive impact we can have on even more children and their families and we look forward to continue to make a difference for our children.



## Dates for Diaries

**Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March**

**School closes for Easter break**

**Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April**

**School re-opens**

**Monday 15<sup>th</sup> – Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> April**

**School residential**

**Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May**

**School closed – May Day**

**Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May**

**Open Afternoon (Seedlings, Bay Tree, Maple Tree, Pine Tree)**

**Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> May**

**Open Afternoon (Elm Tree, Oak Tree, Sixth Form)**

**Friday 17<sup>th</sup> May**

**Maple Tree Class Assembly**

**Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May**

**School closes for May Half term break**