OCTOBER 2026 - AUTUMN 1

PEAR TREE SCHOOL

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have made a fantastic start to the new academic year, and it has been wonderful to see the children settling so well into their new classrooms. Mutual Respect is one of our core values, and we are proud to have a culture of kindness and inclusivity where everyone is valued. Across the school, pupils have embraced new routines with confidence and enthusiasm whilst building positive relationships with their new teachers and teaching assistants. It has been a pleasure to see so many smiling faces and such a positive start to learning.

This term has also brought great sadness to our school community following the passing of two of our pupils. As a community, we continue to hold their families in our thoughts and send them our love and support. Throughout this difficult time, our staff have shown exceptional care and compassion, supporting one another and helping pupils access the support they need. Their unwavering commitment has ensured that the warmth, care and education that sit at the heart of Pear Tree School have continued to shine through, reflecting the strength and kindness of our entire school community.

One of the highlights of September was our exciting Inspiration Day, where we explored the theme of "Brilliant Bodies." The children enjoyed a wide range of activities throughout the day and had the opportunity to share their own talents with others. Pupils visited different classrooms to take part in a variety of learning experiences, creating giant body artwork, enjoying sensory body spas, and investigating the world around them using their super senses. The day was filled with curiosity, creativity, and enjoyment, providing a memorable start to the term.

We also held two Open Afternoons, which were very well received by families. It was lovely to welcome parents and carers into school and particularly special to meet those who are new to the Pear Tree community. These events provided a valuable opportunity to strengthen the partnership between home and school and to share some of the wonderful things that happen in our classrooms every day.

Alongside everything taking place in school, we have also been working hard behind the scenes on our plans for the future expansion of Pear Tree School. This is an exciting time for our school community, and we are committed to ensuring that our developments continue to provide the very best opportunities for our children. We look forward to sharing further updates with you as our plans progress, and you can read more about this exciting project later in this newsletter.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. We look forward to the year ahead and to continuing to achieve the best in everything we do together.

With the warmest of wishes,

Kate

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Pear Tree School

Achieving the Best We Can in Everything We Do

This half term, we say goodbye to some valued members of our team. Emma S and Emma H have been incredible members of The Compass Centre, while Kellie leaves after six years of dedicated service to Pear Tree School, and we also say goodbye to Maria M. We thank them for their commitment and wish them every success in the future.





As part of refreshing and enhancing our learning environment, we will be updating the photographs displayed around school over the coming weeks. This will involve replacing some of the existing images with new photographs that reflect the vibrant experiences and achievements of our pupils today.

If your child's photograph is currently featured in a display that is being updated, we will contact you directly to ask whether you would like to keep the photograph as a special memento. We look forward to showcasing our pupils and celebrating the wonderful opportunities and successes that make our school community so unique.

Pear Tree School has been approved for expansion, creating an exciting opportunity to support more children with special educational needs across our community. We are committed to working with the Local Authority to help meet the growing demand for specialist places.

The focus presently is on site redevelopment and in particular parking provision for both staff and visitors. Throughout this process, our current pupils will remain at the heart of every decision we make.



We are delighted to have launched a dedicated Facebook group for parents and carers. The group is a great way to celebrate school life, share updates, and strengthen our school community.

To ensure a safe and secure online environment, the group is private and exclusively for parents, legal guardians, and main carers of pupils currently attending Pear Tree School. All membership requests will be carefully checked before approval.

Parents and carers can also keep up to date with their child's learning through the weekly class blogs on the Pear Tree School website. Simply visit the website, click *Classes*, select your child's class, and then click *School Blogs* to see what the children have been learning and enjoying each week.

Thank you for your understanding and support as we work together to create a safe, welcoming, and informed school community.

As we move through the academic year, we are anticipating an Ofsted inspection at some point in the future. Pear Tree School is currently graded Outstanding; however, parents and carers should be aware that Ofsted has introduced changes to the way schools are assessed and reported on.

Rather than relying solely on an overall judgement, inspections now place greater emphasis on a range of areas, including education, behaviour, attendance, personal development, leadership, and inclusion. As a result, published outcomes may look different from previous inspections. We remain proud of our provision and are committed to providing the highest quality education and support for every pupil.



In September, we were delighted to welcome MP Andrew Snowden and Councillor Adam Brierley to Pear Tree School. Both visitors were keen to learn more about our school, meet our wonderful children, and hear about our exciting plans for the future expansion of the school.

Andrew and Adam thoroughly enjoyed spending time with our pupils, and we think the children enjoyed the opportunity to meet them too! Their visit provided a valuable chance to showcase all that makes Pear Tree such a special place to learn and grow. We look forward to working with them both in the future and hope to welcome them back to school again soon.

Assemblies take place almost every week and are an important part of school life, although they are not always extraordinary assemblies. Some are class assemblies, where children have the opportunity to showcase their learning, share their work, and work alongside their teacher to help present to the wider school community. We also welcome external visitors who lead assemblies on a range of relevant topics that support pupils' personal development and understanding of the world around them. For example, a local PCSO recently visited to talk to pupils about a variety of safety issues, helping to reinforce important messages about staying safe both in school and within the wider community.

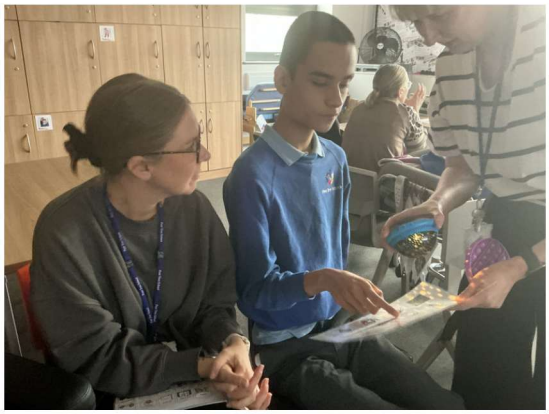
Due to the high demand for places and the fact that Pear Tree School currently has no places, the Governing Body has agreed that prospective parent visits will take place as organised group tours throughout this academic year. To minimise disruption to learning, tours will be held once each half term from 3:15pm to 4:15pm. Visitors will have the opportunity to see selected areas of the school, gain a feel for life at Pear Tree, and ask any questions they may have.

VISIT OUR SCHOOL

Tour dates:

- 25th November 2026
- 13th January 2027
- 11th March 2027
- 21st April 2027

Tours will be led by Kate, Rebecca, and Vicky, with visitors welcomed on arrival by the school team.







PREPARING FOR ADULTHOOD

ALEX BARGELLI

This year, our Sixth Form team has been working hard to enhance and further develop the curriculum to provide the very best opportunities for our students. We use the headings of our bespoke curriculum to help prepare our learners for adulthood and ensure that each learner is successful in every area through their personalised targets.

As every cohort of learners is unique, we continually review and adapt our curriculum to ensure it remains ambitious, engaging, and appropriate for all learners, particularly those following our more formal pathways.

With an increasing number of formal learners in Sixth Form, there has been a strong focus on developing literacy and numeracy skills within our Skills for Employment and Future Options curriculum heading. Students have been learning how to decode and interpret questions more effectively, helping them to understand exactly what is being asked of them. We have also placed a greater emphasis on reading comprehension, alongside daily phonics and handwriting sessions, to further strengthen literacy skills. In numeracy, learners have been building their confidence in applying number knowledge, including solving inverse calculations and using calculators independently and accurately. Additionally, these skills are applied in meaningful, real-life contexts, enabling students to see their relevance beyond the classroom and develop greater confidence in using them independently in everyday situations.

For our semi-formal and formal learners, we have continued to raise ambition within the curriculum by embedding more functional and real-life learning opportunities. Literacy and numeracy skills are practised through meaningful activities that support independence, such as using money in the local community, shopping, and applying number skills in everyday situations. For example, students may count out the correct number of cups or plates needed for their peers, helping them to see the practical value of the skills they are developing.

We are always looking for ways to further improve and enrich our curriculum because we believe every one of our wonderful students deserves the best possible opportunities to succeed. Our aim is for each learner to leave Sixth Form with valuable knowledge, greater independence, and an accreditation or qualification that reflects their individual strengths and learning journey. Later in the academic year, we look forward to sharing further updates regarding our accreditation pathways. However, our priority will always be to ensure that the curriculum is right for our students, allowing them to flourish and ensuring that any accreditation is a meaningful reflection of their achievements and progress.













CREATIVE CURRICULUM - BRILLIANT BODIES

SAM GRIFFIN & ELIZABRTH HARRISON

What a magnificent creative curriculum we've enjoyed this half term in school, with lots of amazing learning taking place across the school linked to our theme, Brilliant Bodies. Across school we have taken the opportunity to get to know ourselves ever more and learn about what our bodies can do, and achieve!

It all began at the start of the half term with our Brilliant Bodies Inspiration Day! The day started with everyone coming into the hall for an assembly. We explored different body parts and what they could do. We warmed up our bodies whilst dancing to '*Danny Go*' and pupils had the opportunity to come and share their amazing talents to the whole school, including singing and dancing. Following the assembly, the pupils visited the classrooms which had various activities set up focusing on their bodies. Finally in the afternoon, we all came together to create a whole school art project focusing on 'Our Brilliant Bodies'. Each pupil decorated a hand which was then placed onto a giant body in the hall to symbolise that we are one school family.

In Bay Tree they have been exploring the story of '*Little Red Riding Hood,*' and focusing on the key lines "*what big eyes/ears/teeth you have*". In Design Technology and Personal, Social Development, the children have focused on healthy eating linked to fruit and vegetables, exploring it through '*Fun with Food,'* and sensory exploration.

In Rowan Tree, the children have also been reading '*Little Red Riding Hood*', listening and learning about all the parts of the body that look different on Grandma. They explored what sounds they could make with feet on bubble wrap, and looking at frozen hands.

In Maple Tree, the children looked at their brilliant bodies by labelling body parts. They then linked this to the literacy story *Goldilocks and the 3 Bears* by hunting for bear body parts in porridge oats! They talked about what body parts bears have that the pupils also have, and what things bears have that we don't. They have also enjoyed singing lots of body songs such as heads, shoulders, knees and toes, and Tommy Thumb, which helped us get to know our bodies, and also helped us with our handwriting targets.

Elm Tree class have been engaging in sensory exploration using different parts of the body to learn the story '*The Secret Garden*' including using our noses to smell flowers, our fingers to dig and touch soil, our eyes to identify different colours in the garden, our ears to listen to the robin singing, and our tongues to taste. They have also experienced the contrast of fresh air in the garden, as opposed to the warmer inside air. The children have also been giving instructions to a friend in our computing lessons, focusing on the movement of different body parts. We also learnt about textural response whilst painting and listening to music to create our own Kandinsky inspired art work.

We all very much enjoyed celebrating our '*Exciting End*' where we shared all the fantastic learning the pupils had done during the half term.

DATES FOR DIARIES



November	
Monday 2nd	Back to school
Friday 6th	Inspiration Day
Friday 20th	Class Assembly - Beech Tree
W/C Monday 23rd	World of Work week
December	
Saturday 12th	Santa's Grotto
Monday 14th	Christmas Nativity
Tuesday 15th	Christmas Nativity
Friday 18th	Break up for Christmas







