

# MARCH 2018 NEWSLETTER



*With trust and care we will grow and flourish*

Dear Parents / Carers,

It has been an incredibly busy Spring half term with lots going on! There has been much to enjoy for our children during the term and many of the memories they have made are shared in this Newsletter. Staff continue to provide experiences that engage and excite our children. These experiences have included: The Easter Experience for year 3 and 4, a Viking visit in year 4 and the 'Wonderdome' supporting the space topic in year 5

Thank you for your patience and understanding during the recent bad weather. A decision to close the school is never taken lightly and hopefully we have seen the last of the snow for this year. We hope you and your family enjoyed some time sledging, having snowball fights and much more! I have heard lots of children telling me how much fun they had!

We break up for Easter holidays today and the children return on Tuesday 10th April. We hope that you have a wonderful time with your families and look forward to seeing you all fully refreshed and ready for the summer term.

Big thank you for your support in raising money for Sport Relief today! We managed to raise and donate £156.93.

Andrew Sharp

## CHALLENGE PARTNERS

As part of our commitment to improving the school we had a visit from 'Challenge Partners'. Challenge Partners are a national organisation that review school performance and support school development. During the first week of this half term we were visited by three senior leaders from schools around the country and a lead reviewer. This team of people spent 3 days in the school, looking at books, observing lessons, talking to children and meeting staff. At the end of the review they shared their findings in a report to governors.

We were pleased to hear that the team reported the school had improved dramatically throughout this year. Below I have shared some of the key statements written in the report:

*'A new culture and ethos for the school are in place, including a new school motto, 'with trust and care we will grow and flourish.' Another important priority was to improve behaviour, so a new policy is now firmly established, leading to dramatic improvements. The atmosphere in the school is very positive, and the 'soft start' to the day means all pupils are welcomed by their teachers in the morning so that they are ready to learn.'*

*'Pupils are extremely proud of their school. They are happy to come to school, are very smart in their uniform and consequently, very well behaved in the classroom.'*

*'Teachers have strong subject knowledge and use this to pose probing questions that test current understanding and consolidate prior learning. Teachers make learning fun, adding to pupils' enjoyment.'*

*'A detailed book scrutiny reveals positive progress in books that adds to the confidence that outcomes will improve this year. The presentation of pupils' work is neat and well-ordered.'*

I think you will agree that these are all positive and encouraging indicators that the road ahead for Pear Tree is moving in the right direction, to enable our pupils to believe in their ability to achieve.

## Times Tables Competition



In order to raise the profile of fluency in Maths, children have been taking part in a whole school times table competition where classes have been competing against each other. There was a clear winner from the upper phase. A massive "well done!" to Kayd for coming first in the Year 5 / 6 competition.

The winners from Year 3 and 4 (Faris, Ahmad, Amar and Dainius), went to a Times Table Competition on Friday 16th March and competed against twelve other schools, with approximately 150 children taking part. They did brilliantly! Well done to Amar and Dainius in Year 4 who were runners up in the Y4 pairs times table competition. A special mention to Amar who came first against all the other children taking part in year 4, 'Well done!'

I'd like to thank Mrs Elliott and Mr Meakin for escorting them to the event.



## Festival of Dance

Dance Club represented Pear Tree at the Celebration of Dance hosted by Derby City SSP. Year 3/4 started the morning off well with an energetic performance, while year 5/6 kicked off the afternoon session by performing first! The children had a fantastic time and were very supportive of each other and the other schools.



## School Football Team

The school football team have played a several competitive games over the last few weeks. Not only have they played really well, their level of sportsmanship, respect for the opposition and attitude has been brilliant. The year 6 team beat Dale Primary 3-0 in the Primary Cup and are now in the next round. After Easter the team will travel to Belper to play their next match. The Year 5 and 6 team played two matches against Village. They won the first match 2-0 and the second 4-1.

Thank you to Miss Dolman, Mr Ozmen and Mr Leek for leading the football team so well



**Year 4**

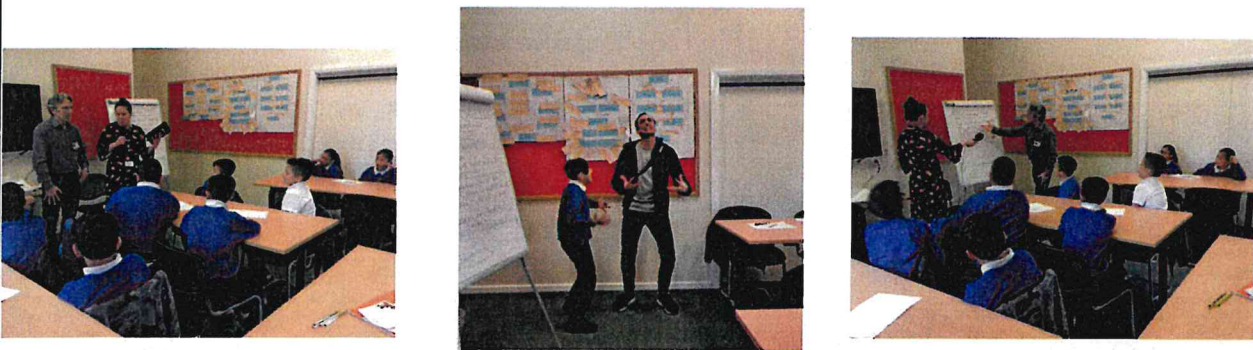
We have been working hard this half term learning all about 'Life after 1066'. We have worked as a team to make Motte and Bailey castles and developed our sewing skills to create a class Bayeux Tapestry. We have learnt about the Magna Carta and agreed our own rules for how we should behave in our class and school. In maths we are learning all about division and have used our place value knowledge to divide on a place value grid and used the bus stop method.



**Derby Book Festival**

**Year 5**

A group of year 5 pupils have been working incredibly hard this half term writing and practising their songs for the Pear Tree Songbook. They performed on BBC Radio Derby and were interviewed on air discussing how they write their songs. They have now created three songs for the songbook and are enthusiastically practising them ready for their performance in June. Again, if any parents play musical instruments and would like to support with this then we would love to have you involved. We want to create lots of different versions of our songs!



**Year 5 Planetarium Visit**

Year 5 had a great visit from 'Wonderdome' with an earth, sun and moon extravaganza on Monday 19th March. The children experienced a one hour show where they looked at what it would be like in space from inside a planetarium.

The children really enjoyed learning more about space. If your child is in year 5 make sure you ask them to share some facts with you.



**Book Day**

We really enjoyed Pear Tree Book Day. The children had a great time dressing up and exploring all the classroom doors which had been decorated as book covers.



Thank you to the parents who joined us for Breakfast with a Book, who provided a costume for their child and who helped their child make a potato character at home. Remember to spend your book token and enjoy reading your new book!

**Key Dates for Parents**

- Friday 23rd March – BREAK UP—EASTER HOLIDAY
- Monday 9th April - INSET DAY (SCHOOL CLOSED)
- Tuesday 10th April - CHILDREN BACK TO SCHOOL
- Monday 7th May - May Bank Holiday (school Closed)
- Monday 14th May— Thursday 17th May—KS2 SATS week for year 6
- Friday 18th May—Royal Wedding Tea Party—children from Infants & Juniors
- Friday 25th May— BREAK UP—MAY HALF TERM
- Monday 4th June—CHILDREN BACK TO SCHOOL
- Wednesday 25th July—BREAK UP—SUMMER HOLIDAY

