

# FEBRUARY 2018 NEWSLETTER



*With trust and care we will grow and flourish*

Dear Parents / Carers,

As ever it has been a really busy half term at Pear Tree Community Junior School. The children have been learning about a variety of topics across the school. I have very much enjoyed going into lessons and learning about the Stone Age in Year 3, The Normans in Year 4, the Second World War in Year 5 and listening to the teachers reading 'There's a Boy in the Girls' Bathroom' in Year 6. Some of the great learning experiences are shared in this newsletter. I do hope you enjoy reading about them!

Andrew Sharp

## E-SAFETY

Online Safety is something we take incredibly seriously at Pear Tree and there is lots of discussion in our school as to how we stay safe online. On Tuesday 6th February was Internet Safety Day, your child spent time completing activities linked with this. Mrs Baker, PCSO, came into school to discuss how children can keep themselves safe online. Below are some of the key messages that were shared with your child:

- 1) *Don't post any personal information online – like your address, email address or mobile number.*
- 2) *Think carefully before posting pictures or videos of yourself. Once you've put a picture of yourself online most people can see it and may be able to download it, it's not just yours anymore.*
- 3) *Keep your privacy settings as high as possible*
- 4) *Never give out your passwords*
- 5) *Don't befriend people you don't know*
- 6) *Don't meet up with people you've met online. Speak to your parent or carer about people suggesting you do*
- 7) *Remember that not everyone online is who they say they are*
- 8) *Think carefully about what you say before you post something online*
- 9) *Respect other people's views, even if you don't agree with someone else's views doesn't mean you need to be rude*
- 10) *If you see something online that makes you feel uncomfortable, unsafe or worried: leave the website, turn off your computer if you want to and tell a trusted adult immediately.*



**Mrs Baker will be running a parent workshop after the half term break making sure parents are aware of how to keep their children safe.**

Year 3 Stone Age Art



Over the last few weeks Year 3 have designed and constructed their own Stone Age homes. They have also created their own cave paintings on the wall outside.

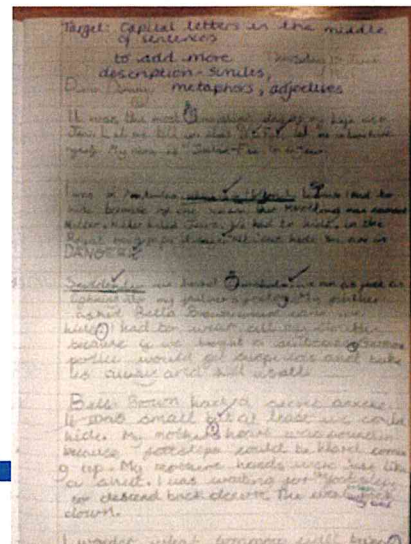


Year 5 have had two sessions now with Richard O'Neill to begin creating our own Pear Tree Songbook. They have been using our Pear Tree values to create a folk song, they even got to work with a local folk musician to help them understand folk music.

If we have any parents who are able to play musical instruments, then please let us know, as we would love your help in performing our song. Just let Mrs Struthers or Mrs Batsford know.

Year 5 have been working on grammar since September and have noticed a real improvement. Andy in Neptune has written a fantastic cold write - with no help- and has produced a piece of writing which Neptune are going to use in their class assembly. Well done Andy, your writing was the chosen piece!

In Year 4 they have been creating their own Bayeux Tapestry, building Mottes and Bailey and making Norman Shields as we familiarise ourselves with the events in 1066.



It's been another great half - term with plenty of exciting things going on for Y6. As part of their learning about the Vikings, Y6 had the pleasure of delving into the world of Vikings by making Viking jewellery, raiding a monastery and engaging in battle! It was a great day! As you can see from the pictures, the children had a fantastic time - and as usual they were Ready, Responsible and Respectful and learnt lots of new things in the process!



The half term that keeps on giving!

Year 6 had a special one day workshop on the importance of looking after the environment and in particular saving and reducing the amount of water we use. Children participated in a range of activities and experiments using their maths and science skills to solve problems.

As always the children of Pear Tree worked well as a team, showed great collaborative learning skills and had fun!



### **Times Tables Competition**

Over the next month, Year 3 to 6 are competing in a times table competition. Classes will be competing with each other to find the top two children in every year group. They will then take part in a competition against other schools in Transform Trust.

Go team Pear Tree- we know you can win. Mr Leek is on the case and as we know all teachers like a competition. May the best school win! Mrs Elliott

### **Year 3 & 4 Athletics Tournament**

A group of children from Year 3 & 4 were selected to represent the school at a Transform Trust Athletics tournament held in Nottingham.

We were overjoyed to hear that they came 2nd place and delighted to hear that they represented the school in an exemplary manner. Well done, we're all very proud of you!



## Attendance First Day

Due to safeguarding requirements, there are clear school procedures for children who have unexplained absences from school. I am writing to make you aware of the school procedure for children who have unexplained absences from school.

There have been public cases in the past where schools have not chased up the reasons as to why children are off of school. It has then transpired that there have been tragic circumstances around these absences, e.g. illness of a parent and a child unable to seek help.

We will do everything we can to prevent such situations occurring as I am sure you would agree that your child's safety is paramount to us all.

If your child is not going to be in school please call the office to report their absence. Please do this before 9am on the first day of the absence.

If we have not heard from you by 9.15am and therefore have no reason for the child's absence, we will make a phone call or conduct a home visit. If we are still unable to get a response then we will report it to the police as your child will then be classed a 'missing child'.

This procedure is to ensure that we know where your child is and that you are all safe. Please let us know in good time why your child is absent from school. If you would like to talk to me about this please contact the school office.

### Key Dates for Parents

**Monday 26th February –INSET DAY (SCHOOL CLOSED)**

**Tuesday 27th February CHILDREN BACK TO SCHOOL**

Thursday 1st March - World Book Day, Children can dress up as their favourite character from a book!

Thursday 1st March World Book Day Disco—3.30pm-4.30pm

**Tuesday 13th and Wednesday 14th March Parents' Evening**

Friday 23rd March - Sports Relief Day,

**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 25th May— BREAK UP—MAY HALF TERM**

**Monday 4th June—CHILDREN BACK TO SCHOOL**

**Wednesday 25th July—BREAK UP—SUMMER HOLIDAY**

