

JANUARY 2018 NEWSLETTER

With trust and care we will grow and flourish



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Dear Parents / Carers,

Welcome back to a new term. I hope everyone had an enjoyable Christmas break and a good start to the New Year!

We are looking forward to a great Spring Term and there are lots of exciting things planned right across the school. The Curriculum Leaflets for each year group will come out this week and will share the themes and topics that your child will be covering in their year group this term - do read these and share your ideas and knowledge with your child.

Since we have come back in January we have some children who are not wearing the correct uniform. We had a great start to the school year but things have begun to slip. May I remind parents children should not wear jeans to school and footwear should be dark shoes or trainers (no bright colours). It is important that our children have a sense of belonging and a pride in coming to school and wearing uniform is key in maintaining that. Thank you for your support in this.

Congratulations to Mrs Badwal who safely delivered a baby boy; Leo, on 21 December weighing 6lbs 3oz. Mother and baby are both doing very well! I am sure you will join the staff and children in wishing her every happiness in the future.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A Sharp'.



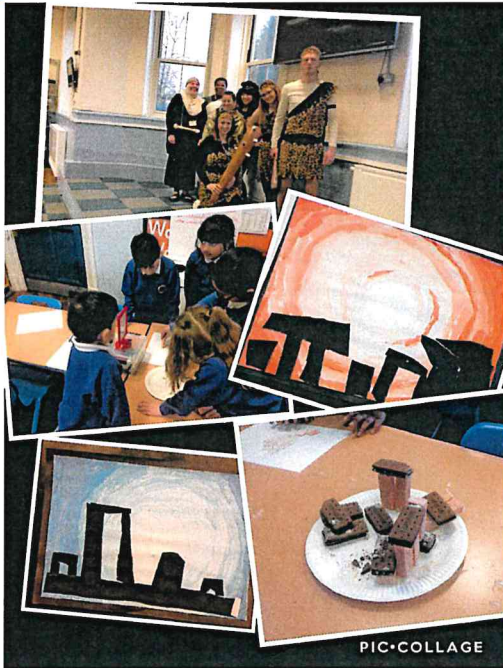
Andrew Sharp

New Library

Reading is a key life skill and we encourage pupils to read everyday. We also teach the skills of reading in lessons each morning. Children who read widely and often, go on to achieve well and make good progress.

The new library is one of the ways we aim to encourage pupils to read. All the children who have used the library so far have loved the new environment. The library club have put together a list of new books they would like to have on the shelves, we will be making every effort to purchase a selection of their choices.





Year 3 have started their Stone Age to Iron Age topic with a trip back in time!

The children returned to school to see their teachers dressed up as stone age characters.

So far the children have created their own biscuit Stonehenge and Stonehenge silhouettes. They have also started to choreograph their own Stone Age dances.

I am sure they are going to enjoy learning even more about the stone age and what life was like back then...

Derby Book Festival

Derby Book Festival will take place between 1st – 9th June 2018

Once again, Pear Tree has the privilege of taking part in Derby Book Festival. This year it will be Year 5 who get the opportunity to work with Richard O'Neill in creating a Pear Tree Songbook. They will write and perform folk songs about their life experiences. As part of this, we are welcoming Sarah Matthews; a local folk musician into school to perform some of her folk music to Years 5 and 6.

I am looking forward to seeing and hearing the fantastic work that will be created by our children and inviting you all in to hear their music as well.

Transform Trust Times Tables World Cup



Children should know all their times tables by the end of year 4.

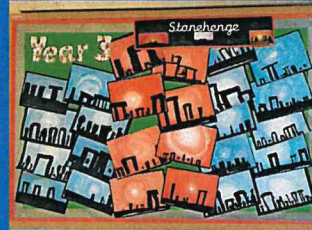
Four children from Year 3 or 4 will be heading to the Transform World Cup on Friday 16th March to compete against the other schools in the Trust.

Get your child to practice their times table and they might be chosen. I will let you know how they get on!



A Great Learning Environment

Staff across the school have been working hard to create exciting and interesting learning environments in all classrooms. These will be added to throughout the term by the children to showcase their wonderful work.



Visitors

We have many visitors to Pear Tree and they are always complimentary about our school and the pupils. I wanted to share an e-mail that I received from a recent visitor who said:

"Firstly, thank you so much for showing me around your lovely school today – the atmosphere was so calm and purposeful, and your staff and pupils were welcoming and enthusiastic. It was a pleasure to work with you today and to spend time at Pear Tree Junior"

It is always encouraging to hear such positive comments and it is satisfying to note that others can visit our school and recognise the nurturing and productive environment which is being created here at Pear Tree for our children.

Behaviour

It is clear that a child's positive behaviour and attitude to school will ensure that they make good progress and in turn reach their full potential.

At the start of the year we updated our behaviour policy. To ensure parents were kept informed of their child's behaviour; we began sending home red letters. A red letter would be sent if a child had been ***sent to a paired class because their behaviour was disturbing the learning of the children in their own class.***

This has worked really well and we have seen a reduction in the amount of children receiving red slips. As a school, members of staff work hard, alongside parents to put strategies in place to support children with their behaviour and work.

However where a child's behaviour does not improve and they receive more than 2 red slips in a week or reach 5 in a half term they will receive at least a half day ***internal*** exclusion with Senior Management. Parents will be informed and asked to work alongside the school to improve their child's behaviour.

I think we will all agree that it is unacceptable if a child continually disrupts the learning of the 29 other children in the class.

Attendance

Having an attendance above 96% is the school target. We are currently at 95% **in order to achieve or target we need to improve.** It is vitally important that children attend school each and everyday. Please ensure that your child is in school and on time.

Children should be in school for 8.50am. Any child arriving after 9.05am will receive a late mark. If a child is continually late for school this will be recorded as an unauthorised absence and parents may receive a fixed term penalty from the Education Welfare Service.

We are aware that there are some circumstances and serious illness that mean children cannot attend school, but to ensure your child learns good work and attendance habits early, parents are ask to send their child in to school if they are only slightly under the weather e.g. light cold or cough. In the event that a child is unwell parents will be contacted and asked to take their child home.

Parent Governor

After our request for nominations to stand for Parent Governor, we received one nomination, therefore a ballot was not required. We are now pleased to announce that Mr Joshi (child in Year 6) has been appointed as Parent Governor for a term of 4 years. He will start his role by attending the next Governing Body meeting on Thursday 1st February.

At this meeting we will be discussing the membership requirements and I will write to parents to let them know the outcome of these discussions.

Key Dates for Parents

Thursday 1st February - Governing Body Meeting

Tuesday 13th and Wednesday 14th February - Parents' Evening

Friday 16th February - break-up for the half-term holiday

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!

Friday 16th March - Transform Trust Times Tables World Cup

Friday 23rd March - Sports Relief Day

Friday 23rd March – break-up for Easter Holiday

MONDAY 9th APRIL - INSET DAY (SCHOOL CLOSED)

TUESDAY 10th APRIL - CHILDREN BACK TO SCHOOL FOR THE SUMMER TERM