



# Welcome to Pre-School

2021-2022 Cohort



# Meet the team

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Who will I be working with?

# Pre-School Leader

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Mrs Burland

# The learning support assistants

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Miss Brown



Miss Oliver

What will a day be  
like?

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Let's see how your day will start



# When I come into school:

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- You will come into the Pre-School classroom through the side gate on the main road and you will wait outside to be let in through the wooden gate outside the class.
- Pre-School hours are; 9am - 12noon.
- You will put your water bottle/lunchbox in the basket.
- You will put your coat on your own peg (this will have your picture on it).
- You will put your book bag in the box.
- You will place your name on the self-registration board.
- Then it is time to get busy with your friends by exploring the activities in the classroom.

# School Uniform

- The children wear their uniform with pride and should be smart with shirts tucked into trousers or skirts.
- Wearing school uniform is a rule for all children except in Pre-school and Nursery classes where it is encouraged but not compulsory.
- School uniform is supplied by Create Identitee, it can be ordered directly with them at their shop Unit 43 Greenway Business Centre, Harlow, Essex, CM19 5QE, or over the telephone 01279 456016. Order forms and samples of sizes are available at the school office.
- Round Neck Sweatshirt or Cardigan with Embroidered School Crest where possible (Bottle Green)
- White polo shirt/blouse
- Grey trousers/knee length skirts
- Shorts for boys and summer dresses can be worn in warm weather.
- Black shoes (with suitable heels) or trainers (with black shoelaces)
- White, black, or grey socks or tights

Please name all of your child's clothes and belongings



The following links take you to 2 companies that provide the PTA with a % of your purchases to help to raise money for the school.

StampTastic - [https://stampTastic.co.uk/#a\\_aid=5edcc47baf3eb](https://stampTastic.co.uk/#a_aid=5edcc47baf3eb)

School Affiliate ID: 5edcc47baf3eb

School PTA Code: CM187BY

My Name Tags - <https://www.mynametags.com/>

School code - 6806





# Things I need

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## •Every day:

- Correct school uniform and hair tied up (if longer than shoulder length). **Please name all uniform**, even socks and shoes. We have 60 sets of identical uniform and we can help lost items get back to the right owner if things are clearly labelled. The uniform shop will embroider initials on for a small charge.
- Book bag - **please label clearly**.
- Water bottle to keep in the classroom (we encourage children to drink water only). Please provide a beaker/sippy cup - we do not use baby bottles in pre-school.
- In a named bag please provide welly boots, a change of clothes, own nappies and wipes. If your child needs cream for nappy changes please fill out a form (ask a member of staff). **Please name all items**.
- We ask that children do not bring toys into school. If they need a toy from home for comfort then this must be put in their book bag before coming into the classroom. If your child needs a comforter we also ask for this to stay in their bag.

## •Each week:

- Snack money (**£1 per week**) - At snack time the children have a piece of fruit or vegetable (free of charge from the National Fruit for Schools scheme). Alongside this we supplement snack with a tasty carbohydrate such as; pitta bread, biscuits or crackers. We encourage the children to use skills such as spreading and cutting to prepare their snack. Your £1 contribution goes towards this and any left over money is spent on ingredients for baking.
- Any homework (when specified)
- Children will have a book to share with adults at home. This will be changed weekly, on a Friday.
- Our pre-school children have access to a woodland outdoor learning area. The children use this area frequently but this is weather dependent and therefore not scheduled for set days.

# My day:

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Throughout the day you can explore the activities in the classroom and in the Pre-School garden. They are set up to support the topic and the 7 areas of the Early Years curriculum (curriculum maps are available on our website for you to see what the children are learning each term).

Sometimes you will choose how you learn and play with your friends, at other times you will complete activities with adults..

Across each day there will be 2 whole class teaching sessions, this includes daily phonics and lots of other sessions linked to the Early Years areas. For most of these you will sit with your class on the carpet area.

Each day you will have snack. We have lots of different food to try, including a variety of fruit and vegetables and things like dips, biscuits, yoghurt and toast. You will have your own snack mat. We always wash our hands before having food. This costs £1 a week.

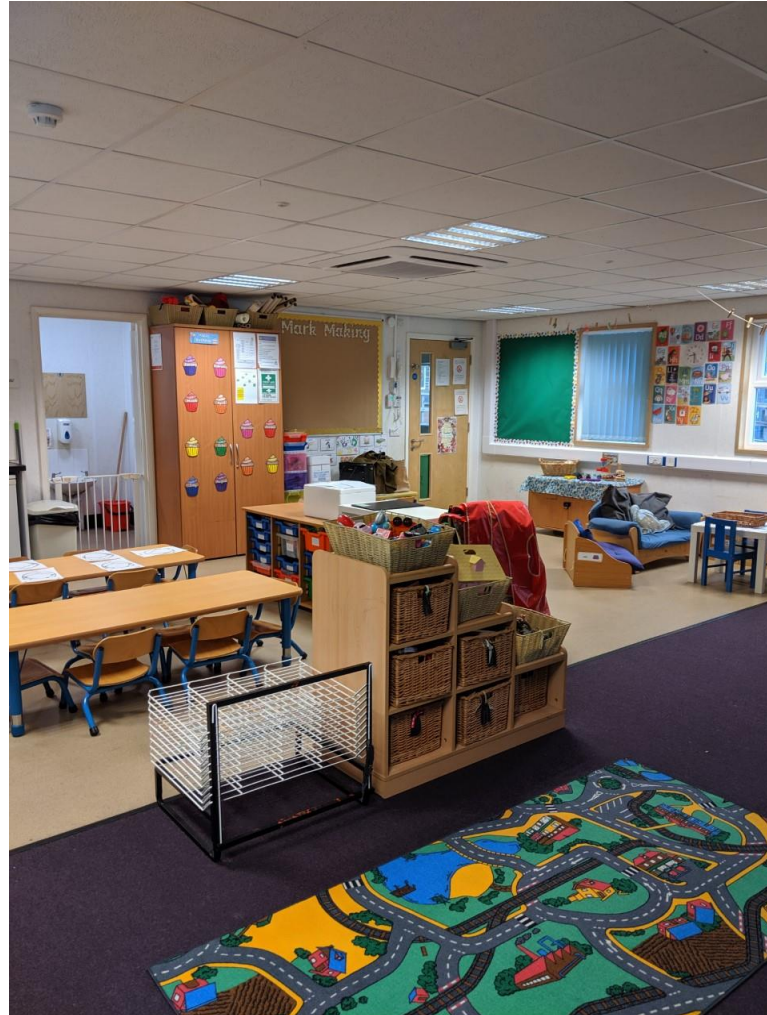


# Welcome to Pre-School

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# Our Classroom



# Learning opportunities:

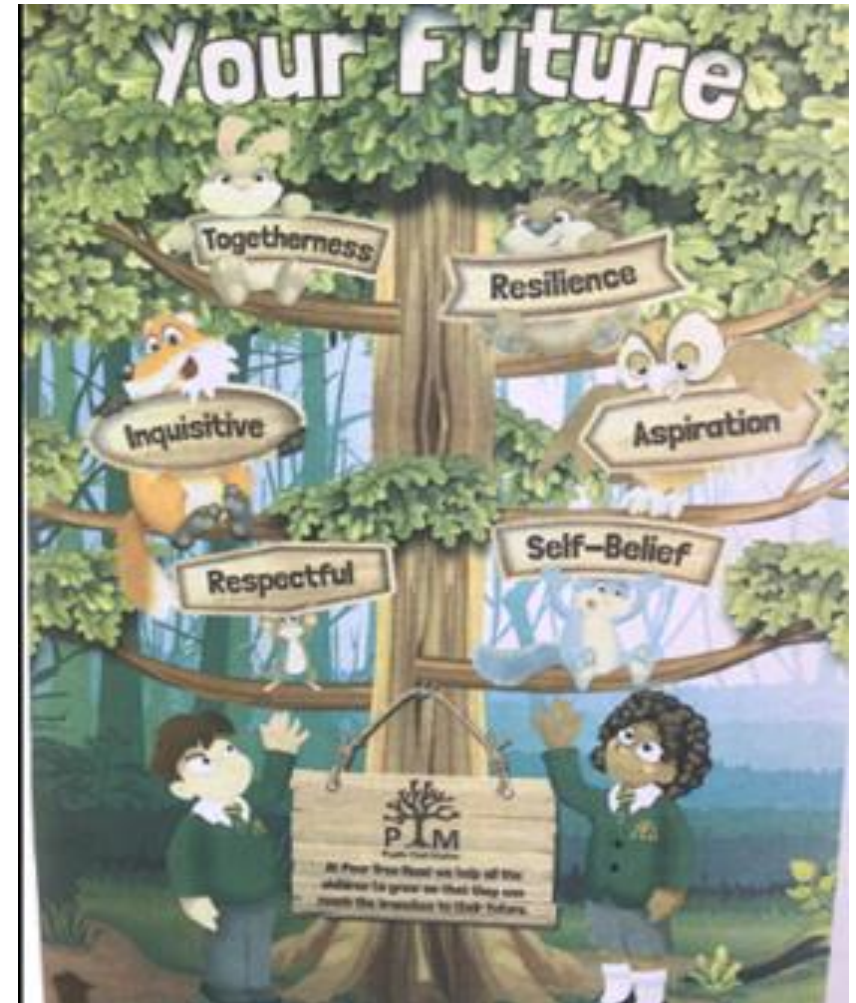
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In our Early Years we value learning through play and exploration. We aim to plan these opportunities in our indoor and outdoor learning environments. Here are some of the fantastic opportunities that pupils at Pear Tree Mead Academy can enjoy:

- A variety of activities and areas with provision for children to access.
- Forest school (no set days and weather dependant)
- Outdoor learning in different areas of the school; our pond, our allotment and our new sensory garden
- A challenging and enabling learning environment.
- Our own outdoor area.

If you would like to find out more about the Early Years Foundation Stage then visit this website: <https://www.foundationyears.org.uk/>. You can also find out more about our Early Years by visiting the school website: <http://www.peartreemead.essex.sch.uk/school-life/curriculum/>.

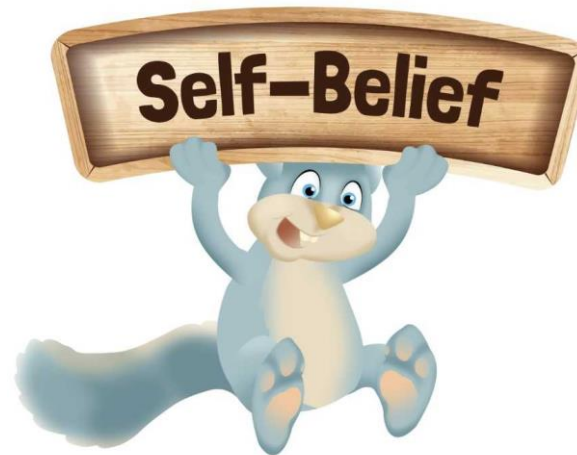
# Pear Tree Mead Academy – school vision and motto.



# School Branches:

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In the Early Years we focus on the first three branches:



# Behaviour

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## **Pear Tree Mead Academy Expectations**

**Be Ready** – ready to learn, ready to inspire, ready to listen

**Be Kind** – kind to others, kind to ourselves

**Be Safe** – safe in what we are doing, where we are, what we are accessing

**BEHAVIOUR**

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# Home learning:

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- Your child will bring home a sharing book and reading diary each week which gets changed on a Friday.
- We may set challenges on Tapestry for you to complete.
- Please add your own video's/pictures on Tapestry, of what your child has been getting up to. You can also like and comment on our pictures.



# Useful websites:

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These are some useful websites for you to use across the year :

- Busy Things [www.busythings.co.uk](http://www.busythings.co.uk) This is a fun educational website which has activities for a variety of early learning areas. Username-home5826 Password-peartree
- Phonics Play [www.phonicsplay.co.uk](http://www.phonicsplay.co.uk) This website has games which can support your child's phonics development across the year. We also sing along and join in with the actions to the 'Jolly Phonics' song on You Tube.
- Jack Hartmann music videos on You tube - We sing and dance along to 'Tooty Ta' 'Penguin Dance' and many more.

# Sharing your child's learning:

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Learning happens both at school and at home. We like to share your child's successes from home through our wow vouchers. These are celebrated and shared in class and hung on the wow tree in the classroom.

We also like to share your child's progress in school through Tapestry. Tapestry is an online learning journal where you can upload comments, photos and videos to show us what your child has been doing at home. We also share new learning and experiences from school through Tapestry.. If you are new to the school we will set up your accounts in the first few weeks.

Throughout the year you will also get the opportunity to visit your child in class and join in with some of the fun activities and parent sessions we arrange such as 'Teach the Parents' and 'Messy Play stay and play' sessions.



# Who to talk to:

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If you have anything that you would like to talk about then the first point of call is always the Pre-School Leader or learning support assistant. We are very happy to talk. We don't check book bags daily, so please hand any letters to the staff member at the door.

If you would like to talk at the end of the Pre-School day please wait until children are safely let out of the classrooms first.

If you feel that after speaking to a member of the class staff you still need to speak to someone else then please contact the school office as they will be able to point you in the right direction of who is best to speak to.

Mrs Martin is the Head of Early Years and will be able to speak with you about an Early Years related concern or question.



Mrs Burland



Mrs Martin

# All About Me

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We would love to find out more about your child. There is a checklist relating to development being given out, please tick what your child is able to do. This will help the staff to understand each child's starting point.

Please print a family photo for your child to bring into school on their first day. This is a great starting point for your child to share something about themselves.

# Outdoor Learning

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The children in our Pre-School have regular opportunities to take part in outdoor learning with the Pre-School staff. The outdoor learning sessions often take place in our woodland area. The children wear green all in onesuits over their clothing and wellies. Please look out for a message on the communication board which will let you know when the children are going to the





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**“Helping the school to create memorable experiences  
for all Pear Tree Mead pupils”**

**Registered Charity: 1040711**

# What is 'Friends of Pear Tree Mead' (FOPTM)?

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- A registered charity whose aim is to fundraise on behalf of the school to provide additional resources and equipment
- A community of volunteers who help out at events hosted by FOPTM
- A way to meet other parents and make new friends whilst supporting the school.
- A separate entity to the school – If the school want FOPTM to fund something they have to request it in writing and it is put to a vote at our termly FOPTM meeting. Equally, if we want to run an event at the school, their staff are given the option to assist on a voluntary basis



# Who manages FOPTM?

FOPTM is managed by a committee of volunteers who are voted in at our AGM every September. Our current committee are:



**Heather Wilson – Chair  
Parent Volunteer**



**Clare Krout– Vice Chair  
Parent Volunteer**



**Yvonne Wells– Secretary  
Parent Volunteer**



**Katrina Thurgood– School Liaison  
Staff Volunteer**



**Paula Hayden – Treasurer  
Staff Volunteer**



**Nikki Duffell – Raffle Co-ordinator  
Parent Volunteer**

**We also rely on parent volunteers to prepare and host events  
where more ‘people power’ is needed!**

# How do we fundraise?



- We run a variety of events throughout the year with the aim to ensure that whilst profitable, our events are affordable to all families.
- Some of our events are for pupils only, but we also run family events after school, in the evenings and at weekends
- We run present sales at Christmas, Mothers Day and Fathers Day to enable children to choose a pre-wrapped gift
- At all school productions we sell to order from a selection of production photos taken during the class dress rehearsals.
- We also raise funds by using Amazon Smile, Bag2School and asking organisations to match funds on stalls at larger events like our Summer fete and Christmas Bazaar.
- We have a small team of parent volunteers who work tirelessly to manage the collection and sale of pre-loved uniform

# How do we fundraise?

Some of the events we have organised recently include:



Halloween Disco  
Christmas Bazaar  
Summer Fete  
Summer Splash  
Break the Rules Day  
Pop Up Circus  
After School Film Club  
Family Race Night  
Singo Bingo  
After School Cake Sale



# What have we funded?

Our main fundraising project at the moment is an outdoor amphitheatre, but in recent years we have also funded...



**Provision of outdoor gym equipment**



**Clearing and landscaping the pond as an outdoor learning area**



**Replacing climbing frames in all playgrounds**

Plus... New curtains for the main hall, outdoor educational posters, a defibrillator and repairs to pool facility!

# How can you help?



Every event we run requires manpower to source materials, set up, and host the event on the day. Without parents who are willing to give up their time, we simply would not be able to run things like school disco's, film clubs, fetes and bazaars – All the things we know the children love!

**We are desperately short of volunteers, with quite a few of our 'regular' parent helpers moving on to secondary school this year.**



If you would like to get involved, please come along to a meeting to see what you can do to help – You can give up as much or as little time as you are able and there are always a variety of tasks to suit everyone's individual commitments and skills. Our meeting dates are published via parent mail and our facebook page, which will also keep you up to date with upcoming events where help us needed.

## PEAR TREE MEAD ACADEMY GOVERNOR RECRUITMENT



**The Governing Board is in urgent need of parent views to expand our capability. At present, the Board is under-represented in this area, leading to limited capacity for Governors to make sure the school is led adequately with all views represented. Without your help, this could put us at risk at our next Ofsted visit.**

Can you  
help us?

We need to recruit two people who can represent parents' views on the Governing Board. As a volunteer parent governor, you will have input to the way our school runs, and your invaluable point of view can help to shape our children's futures. You should be excited about helping the school in being the best it can be, so that it will make our children exceptional. You should be able to attend board meetings in the evening – these are currently done via Zoom and are three per term. You will be allocated part of the school or curriculum to oversee, and this may involve meeting with teachers during school hours, or asking questions by email.



You do not need any formal qualifications, but you must be IT literate. At the very least you should be confident in using email and electronic communications (e.g. Zoom). All we ask is that you are an independent thinker who is able to bring a parent's view to the table, and that you are interested in getting involved in your children's education. In return, you will get full training, and will be part of a friendly team.

***Think you might be interested?***

***Please contact the school ([kate.townsend@peartreemead.essex.sch.uk](mailto:kate.townsend@peartreemead.essex.sch.uk)) & someone will get back to you. Please provide a bit about yourself, and why you think you might be suitable for the role.***

# For more information

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- Please read the information that we have sent you and check out our school website

[www.peartreemead.essex.sch.uk](http://www.peartreemead.essex.sch.uk)

