



Welcome to Reception

2024-25 Cohort



Meet the team

Who will I be working with?



Miss Butler



Mrs McCombie

The teachers

The learning support assistants



Mrs Mead



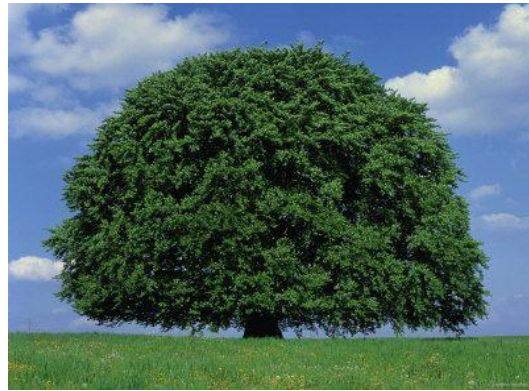
Mrs Waterman



Mrs Thomas

Classes

The reception classes work together and free flow for the majority of the day. The children have the opportunity to interact with all adults across the setting. For registration and adult focused learning sessions they are split into 2 classes. These are called Beech and Cedar.



We will be sending out the class your child is in via parentmail on Friday 6th September after the transition visits have finished. We will be using information from previous nurseries, home phone calls and transition events to allocate the children into classes.

School Uniform

- Round Neck Sweatshirt or Cardigan with Embroidered School Crest (Bottle Green)
 - White polo shirt/blouse
 - Grey trousers/knee length skirts
 - Shorts 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
- School PE kit (To be worn on PE days)
 - House PE top with School Crest - we will let you know what house your child will be in via email in the next few weeks.
 - Joma Short (Black) with School Crest
 - Black trainers or plimsolls
 - Swimming costume, towel, and swim hat.
 - Children in the colder weather will need an outside tracksuit, this must be plain and a dark colour. School Tracksuits are available for our uniform supplier.

The school has a uniform and children are expected to adhere to this. The children wear their uniform with pride and should be smart with shirts tucked into trousers or skirts.

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

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.

Stampstastic - https://stampstastic.co.uk/#a_aid=5edcc47baf3eb

School Affiliate ID: 5edcc47baf3eb

School PTA Code: CM187BY

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

School code - 6806



What will a day be
like?

Let's see how your day will start



When I come into school:

- Doors open at 8.40 and closes at 8.45. You will be marked as late after the register closes at 8.50am
- You will come into the Reception classrooms through the gate.
- You will put your water bottle/lunchbox on the trolley.
- You will put your coat on your own peg (this will have your name on it).
- You will put your book bag in the box. (on Friday).
- If you are having a school dinner you will go to the adult at the big screen to choose.
- You will place your name in the self-registration basket.
- Then it is time to complete your morning work before the carpet time.
- The end of the day is at 3.15pm.

My day:



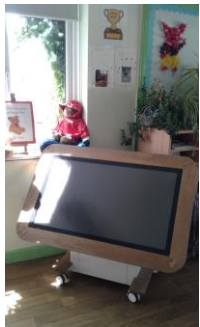
Throughout the day you can explore the activities in both classrooms and in the Early Years garden. They are set up to support the topic and the 7 areas of the Early Years curriculum (curriculum maps are available on our website for you to see what the children are learning each term).

Across each day there will be 4 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.

After carpet times you will join in with group learning. You will complete a mixture of activities.

Next you will explore, learn and play in the classrooms and garden.

Each day you will have snack. You can have fruit and milk.. Every 2 weeks you will also help make your own snack e.g. wraps, smoothies, cakes, fruit kebabs Snack costs £5 a term.



Lunchtime:



Before lunchtime you will go to the toilet and wash your hands. At lunchtime you may have a packed lunch or a school dinner. If you have a packed lunch or school dinner you will eat your lunch in the large hall. If you are school dinners you will go to the counter to collect your food, you can choose a meat option, vegetarian option, jacket potato choice or a picnic bag. (This is chosen in the morning on the white board. Menus are available on the school website) You will use the cutlery that you need and eat with your friends. When you are finished you will tidy up your things. After eating you will go out onto the Early Years garden and playground to play. In the summer term you will join the year 1 and 2 children on the KS1 playground..

ISS Lunches

- [SILVER 2022 New Intake Brochure.pdf](#)
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- Above is some more information about our school dinners.
- Children are entitled to a universal free school lunch every day. If your family is entitled to certain benefits your child will be entitled to Pupil Premium funding. This is extra funding for the school that give children FSM throughout their time at PTM, reduced breakfast club costs and other benefits for the school and children.
- Children who have allergies will not be able to have a school dinner until their special menu is agreed. If your child has any allergy you will need to complete the correct forms and then wait for a agreed menu.
- Children can change between school and home lunches each day as required.
- Copies of the school menu for September are available on the school website.

Things to bring

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.
- Water bottle to keep in the classroom (we encourage children to drink water only).
- Weather bags - to keep the children safe throughout the seasons we advise that they have a weather bag for their peg. In the winter this could contain a hat, gloves, scarf, and wellies. In the summer a sun hat and sun cream could go in the bag. **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.

Each week:

- **Book bags in school every Friday.**
- Sharing books, reading books and reading diary to be in the book bag. We will change your child's books on a Friday, if you wish to change more regularly, parents can change books in school library after school on other days. We check your reading diary on this day,
- Children to wear PE kit for PE days, again **please label clearly.**
- Any homework (when specified).
- Swimming kit and £3 contribution - swimming will start once the weather is warm enough. The day will be confirmed nearer the time.

Learning opportunities:

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, across both reception classrooms and the Early years garden.
- Forest school
- Outdoor learning in different areas of the school; our pond, our allotment and our new sensory garden
- Swimming, children will need a swimming costume, towel and swim hat. Swimming costs £3 a week.
- A challenging and enabling learning environment.

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/>.

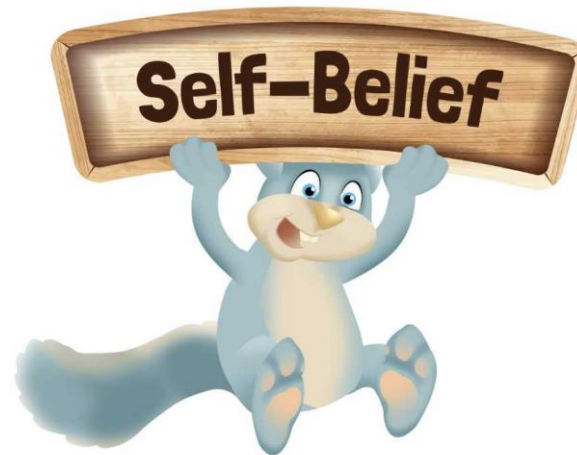


Pear Tree Mead Academy - school vision and motto.



School Branches:

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







The Zones of Regulation:

- At Pear Tree Mead we teach the children important skills in regulating their own emotions and understanding the emotions of others. We start this learning in Reception where the children learn through the Zones of Regulation curriculum. The Zones are four coloured zones that relate to different types of emotions. The children will be taught how you may look, feel or behave when you are in these zones and how it is okay to feel different emotions. They will begin to be taught how to use different tools to regulate their emotions.

- If you would like to find out more please visit our website:
<https://www.peartreemead.essex.sch.uk/school-life/curriculum/the-zones-of-regulation/>

The ZONES of Regulation®

BLUE ZONE	GREEN ZONE	YELLOW ZONE	RED ZONE
			
Sad Sick Tired Bored Moving Slowly	Happy Calm Feeling Okay Focused Ready to Learn	Frustrated Worried Silly/Wiggly Excited Loss of Some Control	Mad/Angry Mean Terrified Yelling/Hitting Out of Control

Behaviour:

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

Behaviour Recognitions

Children receive recognition for work, expected behaviour and effort. We have a structured behaviour system where children can be recognised for exemplary behaviour (above and beyond) or for reaching (or striving towards) each branch on the tree (achieving the skill).

Positive Notes - this is a certificate that is given to a child when they have shown behaviour that is 'above and beyond' - this is for them to take home. Positive notes are also given to visitors to the school, who have the opportunity to give them to a pupil if they see exemplary behaviour.

Each 'positive note' is recorded on the class recognition chart. When pupils have enough positive notes they will receive a phone call home! Further notes will amount to them being invited to a 'hot chocolate event' run by the Senior Leadership Team, where children will have a little hot chocolate treat and time with the leaders of the school. When attending, children can also collect a Headteachers award!

Other Recognitions

- Across the school the children are arranged in house teams and can earn points for their house. The houses are named in line with the PCLC houses as we are part of the trust, these are Griffin, Unicorn, Lion and Dragon. House points are given out with a maximum of 5 at each occasion. A special treat is organised for the winning team each half term. This is something the children will be introduced to later in the year. Children wear house PE tops in the colour of their house. Children stay in the same house for all of their PCLC journey.
- Children can receive a Headteachers Award for excellent work and effort in their learning.
- We also have a 'Thank You' box in the main office where staff, parents and children can write messages of thanks to all school groups. These are shared in Assembly. This supports well-being within the school across all stakeholders.
- At lunchtime, our LSAs oversee the hall and Early Years garden. We run a recognition strip at lunchtimes, where individual children are given a strip of paper to recognise their super behaviour at lunchtimes. This is to add to the paper chain that they are creating in class, when the children have collectively achieved 100 recognition strips, they earn themselves extra play/lunchtime.

What if you are not doing the right thing

- Appropriate consequences will be given, taking into consideration the child
- We will communicate behaviour and consequences with the child's parents where necessary, and only that of their child, not any other pupils' involvement
- In extreme instances, where behaviour is continuous, over time, or for one large incident, the pupil may face expulsion for a fixed period (this will be communicated with parents and formally by letter). Incident(s) can include the pupil putting themselves or others at risk, safety of them or others and/or verbal/physical harm.

Attendance at PTM

- Will your child be a PTM Attendance Hero next year ?
- Being here every day and on time really helps your child be happy, successful and get the very best from their education.



Did you know...

That just being late regularly can soon build up many hours of lost learning.

Getting Your Child to School Really Matters



Did You Know... ?

In a School Year, If Your Child is Late Every Day By...

Your Child Would Have Lost Approximately...

or They Would Have Missed Approximately...

5 Minutes

3.5 Days from School

20 Lessons

10 Minutes

7 Days from School

41 Lessons

15 Minutes

10 Days from School

55 Lessons

20 Minutes

14.5 Days from School

82 Lessons

30 Minutes

22 Days from School

123 Lessons

Please Encourage Punctuality to Maintain Attendance

Regular attendance is so important as just 2 weeks off school in a year will mean you child misses 50 lessons .

ATTENDANCE


WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

ABSENCE FROM SCHOOL
Children are required by law to attend school 190 days per year. The Government states that every pupil's attendance should be at least 95%.


How do YOU measure up?

Attendance	Days Absent	Weeks Absent	Lessons Missed
95%	9 Days	2 Weeks	50 Lessons
90%	19 Days	4 Weeks	100 Lessons
85%	29 Days	6 Weeks	150 Lessons
80%	38 Days	8 Weeks	200 Lessons
75%	48 Days	10 Weeks	250 Lessons
70%	57 Days	11.5 Weeks	290 Lessons
65%	67 Days	13.5 Weeks	340 Lessons


89% & Below
 Drastic effect on academic achievement



95% - 90%
 Cause for concern



100% - 96%
 Excellent



For more information on the school's policy regarding attendance please visit

[Attendance - Pear Tree Mead Academy](#)

Home learning:

- We will change your child's reading books every Friday. The children will have a book band colour.
- Your child will also choose a sharing book in school. They will take this home, this is a story book which you can enjoy reading together.
- Your child will also bring home a set of rainbow words , these are given approximately once a half term. Please practise reading and writing these words frequently at home.
- There is a termly craft / art challenge based on the topic.
- We may set maths challenges on Tapestry for you to complete.
- We ask for any of the learning above to be recorded in your reading journal at home.



Useful websites:

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

- Busy Things 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 Throughout the year we will keep you updated with what your child is learning in phonics. We will also lead a workshop to explain what we are teaching and how we teach it. This website has games which can support your child's phonics development across the year.
- Letter join website for handwriting letter practise <https://www.letterjoin.co.uk/log-in.html>

Sharing your child's learning:

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 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 look at your child's learning books. They will each have an English, Maths and topic book.



Assessment:

When children start in Reception it is vitally important that the staff get to know the children's developmental stages, their skills and their understanding. This is so that we understand each child's next step and whether they will need any additional support.

We will use the observations of staff and the teacher's professional understanding of the children to identify their developmental stage. As a school we also complete the Government Statutory Reception Baseline Assessment. This is a 20 minute age-appropriate activity-based assessment of pupils' starting point in;

- Language, communication, and literacy
- Mathematics

The children will also be assessed to see whether they require intervention for their speech and language through the WELLCOMM assessment.

Who to talk to:

If you have anything that you would like to talk about then the first point of call is always the class teacher 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 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.



Forest School

Mrs McCombie is our Forest School teacher. Our children enjoy working with Mrs McCombie in Forest School every fortnight from October until July.

Forest School Ethos

Forest School is a unique educational experience and process that offers children the opportunity to succeed and develop confidence and self-esteem through hands-on learning experiences in a woodland environment.

Children engage in motivating and achievable tasks and activities throughout the year and in almost all weathers. Children will work with tools, play, learn boundaries of behaviour; both physical and social, grow in confidence, self-esteem and motivation whilst developing an understanding of the natural world.



A Forest School encourages children to:

- develop personal and social skills
- work through practical problems and challenges
- use tools to create, build or manage
- discover how they learn best
- pursue knowledge that interests them
- learn how to manage failures
- build confidence in decision making and evaluating risk
- develop practical skills
- explore connections between humans, wildlife and the earth
- regularly experience achievement and success
- reflect on learning and experiences
- develop their language and communication skills
- improve physical motor skills
- become more motivated
- improve their concentration skills



What will I wear at Forest School?



No children will be permitted to go to Forest School without appropriate clothing that will protect them from extremes of heat or cold, keep them covered to reduce the likelihood of cuts and scrapes and that fits appropriately for comfort.



Children and parents are encouraged to think about the usefulness of their clothing for outdoor activities, and to be aware they are likely to take some of our mud home with them after the session. In the forest it can be often be cooler than expected under the shade of the trees.



Clothing list: waterproof coat, with hood, long sleeved top, full length trousers, warm boots (wellies can be very cold during the winter), warm socks (and a spare pair), in cold weather – gloves and woolly hat, in warm weather – sun hat that fits well to ensure good visibility.



We work on the principle that "there is no such thing as bad weather, only bad clothing". We do have a selection of spare clothing but this will need to be matched to your child prior to the session and checked for suitability.

What will I do at Forest School?

Activities for Forest Schools are diverse and numerous but it should be reminded that we are trying to create independent learners who are inspired to try out their own ideas, explore their own interests and to attempt new ideas. Some activities might include:



Shelter building

Tool use

Studying wildlife

Playing team and group games

Art and sculpture work

Sensory activities

Tracking games

Using a Kelly Kettle

Rope and string work

Physical movement activities

Woodland and traditional craft

Cooking on an open fire

Developing stories and drama, and meeting imaginary characters

Clubs

- We have a breakfast Club that runs every day - this is £3.50 and is run by the school.
This can be booked via Parentmail
- We have an after-school club run by the school. This is booked via Parentmail.
The Treehouse Club runs between 3.15pm and 4.10pm for a themed activity session.
Night Owls runs between 4.10pm and 6pm. Children have a small snack in Night Owls.
- Registration forms must be completed for Breakfast Club and Our After school Club.
- Children can join Rock steady - rock band when they join PTM. This is run by an external company and has a termly charge. You can find out more information from <https://www.rocksteadymusicschool.com/>
- Watch this short video to see what learning in a band could do for your child's well-being: <https://www.rocksteadymusicschool.com/watch-video/>



The Treehouse Club



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

Registered Charity: 1040711

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

- 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. We have our own facebook page where you can find out what's going on.
- 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

How do we fundraise?



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- 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 a clothing bin, pre loved uniform 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
Easter Fair
Break the Rules Day
Pop Up Circus
After School Film Club
Family Race Night
Singo Bingo
After School Cake Sale
Present Sales



What have we funded?

Our main fundraising project at the moment is for new opal resources, but in recent years we have also funded...



A new outdoor learning classroom



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.

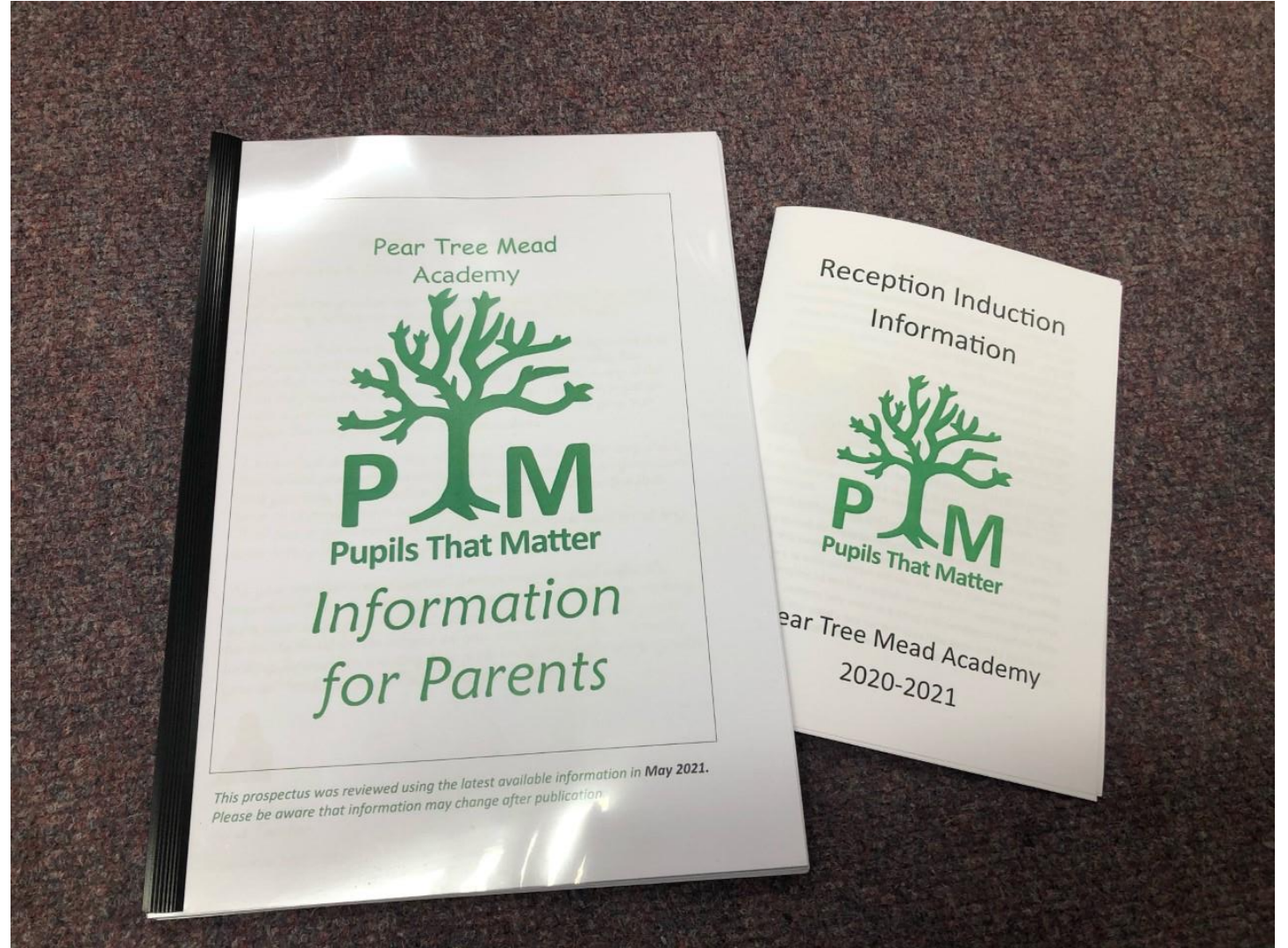
Think you might be interested?

Please contact the school (kate.townsend@peartreemead.essex.sch.uk) & 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

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

www.peartreemead.essex.sch.uk



Transition Visits

We look forward to seeing the children on their transition visits in September. It will be after these visits that you will find out which class your child will be in.

Please name anything you bring in on this day (e.g waterbottles and asthma pumps).

These powerpoints will be on the school website for you as soon as possible.