

The Pinner Park Poem

Special Edition



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Special Times, Special Edition

As I'm sure you will appreciate, we are currently dealing with a complex and rapidly changing situation with regard to Covid-19 / Coronavirus.

Our first priority will always be the health and safety of the pupils and staff in our school. Now more than ever, this remains our primary focus.

Already in school we have taken a number of measures to protect our children, staff and families. We have established a small team of key staff to co-ordinate our efforts, and this newsletter will inform you of some of the practical steps we are taking.

This is an entirely unprecedented situation and we are continuing to follow official advice from the government and the NHS. This advice is being added to on a daily basis and we are monitoring and responding to that as it is published. This official advice will underpin all the actions we take.

We have not had any confirmed cases of Coronavirus in school. If you, or a member of your household has a confirmed case, please do let us know through the school office. We will then refer this matter to Public Health England and share advice and any necessary actions accordingly.

We really do appreciate the support of our parents and community, and I am super-grateful to the staff team at Pinner Park who are working hard - with care, kindness and positivity – in these circumstances. We continue to stick as closely as we can to our regular timetable whilst making every effort to re-assure the children.

Please do contact us if you have any questions using the office email address.

Best wishes,

Nick Waldron

Headteacher



Communication with School



In the lead up to Easter, please use email for any non-urgent communication with the school. This will free up our phone lines for any urgent calls.

We will endeavour to respond to any email communication as quickly as possible.

Handwashing



In line with the guidance for educational settings we have significantly increased the frequency of handwashing in school. We are reminding children to wash their hands at every opportunity, including before lunch, and we are modifying our timetable and procedures to facilitate this.

We are also using resources within the classroom to teach the children about effective handwashing and asking all school visitors to wash their hands on arrival at school.

Please can all families support this by washing hands with running water and soap, for at least 20 seconds, before leaving for school and again when children return from school.

School Attendance

In line with the guidance from Public Health England and the DfE, we will remain open unless we are instructed to close by the Department for Education. In the event of staff shortages, we will take decisions based on the best interests of our children, staff and families.



Children should stay at home for 7 days if they have either:

- a high temperature
- a new continuous cough

You do not need to go to a GP surgery, pharmacy or hospital, and you do not need to contact 111 to tell them you're staying at home. If you feel you cannot cope with the symptoms at home, if the condition gets worse, or if the symptoms do not get better after 7 days, use the [online 111 coronavirus service](#).

The latest guidance can be viewed at www.nhs.uk/coronavirus and www.gov.uk/coronavirus. Please remember that the advice is regularly updated.

We know that some families are concerned about children and family members who are considered to be higher risk – including those with underlying medical conditions. There are no hard and fast rules regarding school attendance in these circumstances – it will be up to individual families to make a decision about attendance based on the best interests of their family.

Cleaning and Site Checks



As a precautionary measure, we have 'stepped up' our cleaning and site checks in school.

Toilet and hand-washing facilities will be checked frequently throughout the school day to ensure the availability of hot water, soap and hand-drying.

We've also increased the frequency of cleaning for high-contact areas and items such as door handles, shared resources, hand-rails and so on. Our site managers will meet frequently with our cleaning team so that we can set our priorities from day-to-day.

School Events and Visits Update

We think that it is wise to review all our planned events in the light of the current circumstances. Although we want, as much as possible, to continue with 'business as usual', we also want to take sensible precautions to reduce contact where we can.

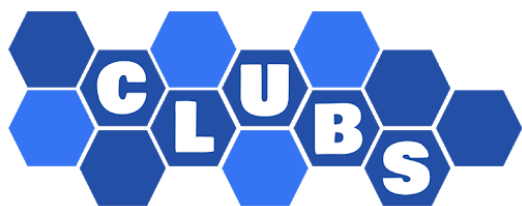


We have reviewed the following events and visits – please check this list carefully.

Assemblies	We will not be holding large group assemblies at the moment. We will review this at Easter.
Year 4 Swimming	We have cancelled swimming up until Easter. We will review this at the end of term.
Year 5 Production	We have postponed the Year 5 production. It would be very difficult to manage this with pupil and staff absence, and we don't want to gather large groups together unnecessarily. We will plan some new dates in due course. If you have already purchased tickets, the money will be sent back to you this week via your child.
Reception Spring Assembly	We have postponed these presentations and we will plan some new dates in due course.
Year 2 'habitats' display	We will now have a 'virtual display' of the habitats using our school website. The planned 'display' event is cancelled.
Year 3 Food Technology	The planned sandwich making activity is postponed.
Music Teachers' Parent Consultations	We have postponed these consultations and we will plan some new dates in due course.

We will continue to review all our school activities and update parents accordingly.

After-School and Lunchtime Clubs



Most of our morning and after-school clubs operated by external providers will continue. Each provider has been reminded of the importance of good hygiene and are working closely with the school to provide a safe learning environment for the children.

The following clubs will be postponed for the time being. We will review this at Easter. We are sorry for any inconvenience this may cause.

Club Cancellations:

- Monday: Year 3 and 4 gymnastics, Year 5 and 6 football (both clubs will not operate today)
Year 6 Fab House, Year 3 – 6 Orchestra (will operate today but not thereafter)
- Tuesday: Year 5 and 6 Cricket
- Wednesday: Year 5 and 6 basketball
Year 5 and 6 netball
- Thursday: Year 3 – 6 Choir

Working from Home

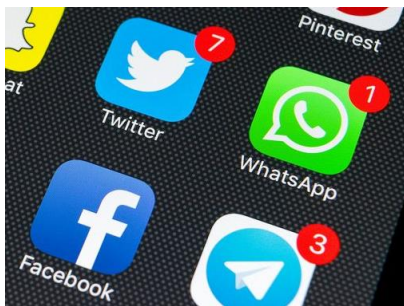
If any children are required to self-isolate but are not unwell, we want to give as much opportunity as possible to keep updated with skills and to continue the learning.

The teachers are busy preparing some information for families in this circumstance, including links to online learning portals.

In the meantime, anyone who finds themselves away from school should continue to read as much as possible, and use the existing online resources such as Times Tables Rockstars, Numbots, Mathletics and so on. We will update our website this week to provide further information regarding home learning.



Use of Social Media



We will continue to use our online presence (website, Twitter, Facebook and Instagram) to communicate school-wide messages. Please do 'follow' or 'like' us to keep in touch. Our social media is all under @pinnerparksch.

If you want to communicate with school, or if you have any questions or concerns, please do ask us directly (the best way to do this is through our office email).

School staff do not have access to parent WhatsApp groups, and are not permitted to communicate over social media, except through our official channels. Therefore, raising a question using these channels will not be helpful. In particular, we ask that you avoid speculating on social media groups as this will do nothing other than heighten anxiety levels at an already challenging time.

Play Resources

All play resources donated to school are checked for safety and cleaned. However, at this time we would ask you to hang on to any donations so that we can safely sort out any new donations in due course.

We will let you know when we are 'open' again to further donations.



Choose Kindness



It seems particularly apt that, during this unprecedented situation, we are focussing on kindness. Small acts of kindness, performed by everyone in our school and community, have the power to make a big change to our school and community – especially at this time.

We would encourage everyone to seek out those who need our support and help during this period of time.

We are grateful for the kind support of our families – the kind, supportive words we have received make a real difference. Thank you.