

The Pinner Park Poem

Special
Edition



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New Updates

As I write this update there is a great deal of uncertainty around school closures for England. We know that schools in Wales and Scotland will be closing from the end of this week and we expect an announcement to clarify the situation for England later today. We understand that a statement will be made by Gavin Williamson, Secretary of State for Education, at 5pm today.



Please note that we will receive the information at the same time as the remainder of the country. Please do not phone the school to ask if we are closing because this ties up our limited staff team in answering calls. As soon as we know anything, you'll be the first to know!

In the meantime, we will continue to work hard to keep school open and to communicate any updates to you as soon as possible. If your child is absent from school, please do leave a message on the voicemail – we will not call you back, but we will record the reason for absence. We will only call you if we are unsure as to why your child is not at school.

At this time it is even more important than ever that you check your SchoolPing app for any additional updates, even outside of school hours.

You may have heard from your children that we have a high number of children and staff who are absent from school at the moment. This is for a wide range of reasons including illness (unrelated to Covid19), those in self-isolation due to their own symptoms or those of family members, those with underlying medical conditions or in high-risk categories. To date, we are not aware of any confirmed cases of Coronavirus within our school community.

The staff team and I want to thank you for your continued support at this unprecedented time for our nation. I also want to thank the staff team at Pinner Park. They have shown great resilience, flexibility and commitment over the past couple of weeks. Their positive and caring approach to children, families and each other has shone through – we are fortunate to have such a dedicated team.

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

Best wishes,

Nick Waldron

Headteacher

Home Learning



We have added a new section to our school website for parents of children who are currently at home, and to get ready for any school closures, should these be announced.

There is a link from our [home page](#) – click on the scrolling text at the top.

Currently there are some general links to online resources. We will be populating the year group pages with content over the next few days.

I am sorry that we are unable to respond to individual requests for work to be sent home.

I am grateful to the teachers who are working hard to plan home learning activities for the coming weeks whilst also planning their day-to-day teaching.

Watch this space!

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.

In addition to the lists provided this week, we have taken the decision to cancel all after-school clubs from next week, including those operated by external providers.



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

School Meals



We continue to work closely with the Chartwells team to ensure that we can provide a healthy, hot and safe meal each lunchtime for our children. We have changed some of procedures to add an extra layer of precaution.

If your child is unwell or self-isolating, please could you remember to cancel your child's meal on ParentPay. This is especially important if you pay for your child's meal – cancelling before 9am on the day will ensure that you are not charged for the meal.

School Attendance – Current Advice

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.



The updated advice from the Government is as follows:

The coronavirus symptoms are:

- a high temperature
- a new continuous cough

Staying at home (self-isolating):

- if you have symptoms, stay at home for 7 days
- if you live with other people, they should stay at home for 14 days from the day the first person got symptoms
- If you live with someone who is 70 or over, has a long-term condition, is pregnant or has a weakened immune system, try to find somewhere else for them to stay for 14 days
- If you have to stay at home together, try to keep away from each other as much as possible

Read advice about staying at home [here](#).

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.

Use the NHS 111 online coronavirus service if:

- you feel you cannot cope with your symptoms at home
- your condition gets worse
- your symptoms do not get better after 7 days
- Only call 111 if you cannot get help online

How to avoid catching and spreading coronavirus (social distancing):

Everyone should do what they can to stop coronavirus spreading. It is particularly important for people who:

- are 70 or over
- have a long-term condition
- are pregnant
- have a weakened immune system

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.