

# The Pinner Park Poem

Special  
Edition



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## Fight the Good Fight...

As you know, school will close at the end of the day today and will not re-open until further notice.

This is one part of a battle against a common enemy, COVID-19. We all have a part to play in this battle and we must all step up to the mark.

One of the most significant things that we can all do is to increase our 'social distancing'. This is a major weapon in the nation's fight and we must all follow the guidance as much as we can. This is the reason that schools are closing.



Social distancing measures are steps you can take to reduce the social interaction between people. This will help reduce the transmission of coronavirus:

- Avoiding contact with someone who is displaying symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19).
- Avoiding non-essential use of public transport
- Working from home and staying at home
- Avoiding gatherings, large and small. Keep in touch using remote technology
- Use telephone or online services to contact essential services

Let's all play our part and defeat this enemy together. We can do this! Our country has been through hard times before and it has been the willingness of its people to voluntarily submit to the tasks needed that has brought it through those times. Our school and wider community should be a fortress in adversity.

This is, oddly, a proud moment in the history of our school. The way in which the whole school community of children, staff, governors and families has pulled together to respond to this crisis has been amazing. I want to thank each and every child and adult who is responding with such positivity, kindness and care at such a difficult and challenging time.

Today will be a very strange day. I am aware that some of you may have finished school already due to your personal circumstances. For others, this will be the last day for what is likely to be some time. It will feel very strange and also very sad saying goodbye to the children at the end of the day today.

On behalf of the all of the staff and Governors, I wish you all the very best.

*Nick Waldron*

Headteacher

## Support for Key Workers

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Schools have been asked by government to make arrangements to enable the children of key workers and children with certain needs to continue to attend school.



We will be operating a small-scale, basic, childcare facility over the next two weeks for the very small number of children who will not be able to be looked after at home, and whose parents work in roles which are critical to the nation's COVID-19 response. We will review our provision for the period of time following those initial two weeks.

From Monday, we will operate a simple, childcare provision from 8am – 4pm on weekdays (there will be no breakfast or after-school clubs). Some parents may want to access the provision for a shorter period of time (shorter hours or fewer days) and this will be supported, where practicable.

**The government has made it very clear that if it is at all possible for children to be at home, then they should be.**

If your work is critical to the COVID-19 response and you cannot keep your child safe at home then your children will be prioritised. Many parents working in these sectors will be able to ensure their child is kept at home. **Every child who can be safely cared for at home should be.**

If you work in one of the critical sectors identified [here](#) and you cannot keep your children safely at home, we ask that you complete a simple online form to register your interest in a place in our childcare. Please only request a place for your child if it is absolutely necessary.

On the form you will be asked to confirm that your role is critical to the nation's COVID-19 response and that your child cannot be safely looked after at home. We may ask for further confirmation of your role, or a note from your employer as part of our checks.

**Link to our online form: <https://bit.ly/PPPKeyWorkers>**

You only need to complete the form if you are requesting a place for your child. Please complete the form by 12.30pm today if at all possible. This will help us to plan our provision for Monday.

Please be mindful of the updated guidance from the Government:

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*“If it is at all possible for children to be at home, then they should be. Parents should also do everything they can to ensure children are not mixing socially in a way which can continue to spread the virus. They should observe the same social distancing principles as adults.”*

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Please consider this message very carefully and, as far as you can, work on the basis that children should stay at home and not come to school.

## Medication

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Our welfare teams hold a large quantity of medication on behalf of students and families, including asthma inhalers. Given that we are expecting a sustained period of school closure, we recommend that parents collect any medication currently held in school and take it home. This will enable you to have the medication where it is most needed.



At the end of the school day today, we will have all the medication named and ready to collect from the studio (next to the school office) or from an outside collection point if dry. The collections will be available from 2.30pm. Please collect the medication from us – we cannot send it home with your child.

## Collection of Personal Belongings and Learning Resources

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For all those children who are in school today, we will send them home with all their belongings (including PE Kits) and any resources for their home learning – this will be different for different year groups but will include some exercise books and reading books for everyone.

If your child is not in school, please do not call us or come in to collect these things. We are trying to carefully manage the number of visitors to school, in line with social distancing guidelines, with fewer members of staff.

Next week, we will get everything ready for any child who is not in school and we will set up some collection points and times throughout the week. These will be carefully managed so that parents can pop in, collect everything and leave the premises quickly.

We will notify you of the dates and times in due course. Thanks for your patience – we are working hard to get all our support in place. Please do not come in to collect items at other times.

## Well Being, Mental Health and Getting Support

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At this time of uncertainty and anxiety for adults and children, and with the change in routines, it is really important that we look after ourselves and each other.

If you find yourself struggling, please do seek support. We are very happy for you to contact the school for that support. You can email the school office, confidentially, at any time and we will respond in any way that we can to support you. We have some very experienced staff and links to others who will be able to help. You are not alone.



If any family is facing acute financial difficulty please do get in touch with us. We want to help and we may be able to access grant funding, or put you in touch with someone who can support you.

We have a section on our 'home learning' page dedicated to well-being which includes some tips for families and also some activities you can do at home to support everyone's mental health.

## Free School Meals during School Closure

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Some of our children qualify for a free school meal because their parent receives qualifying benefits. During the period of school closure, we do not want any of those families to miss the opportunity to receive the meal they are entitled to.

We are currently working towards a plan to support those families during the coming weeks. We will contact all those families who are entitled to a free school meal today. If you have not heard from us by Monday, and you believe your child is entitled to a benefits-related free school meal, please let us know on Monday morning.

## Keeping in Contact.

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Please ensure that you are receiving SchoolPing communications from us. If you are not, please let us know so that we can help to sort this out for you.

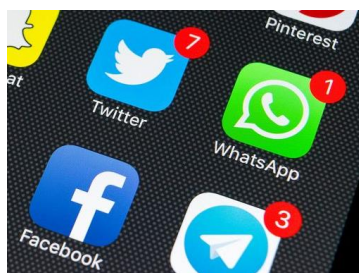
It is vitally important that we are able to contact you throughout the school closure period with updates and information.

We will also try and keep our website up to date, and send key messages through our social media channels.



## Use of Social Media

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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).

We ask that you avoid speculating or raising questions on social media groups, such as WhatsApp or Facebook, as this will do nothing other than heighten anxiety levels at an already challenging time.

**Thank you for your continued support during these challenging times. #BeKind**

<http://pinnerpark.harrow.sch.uk>