

The Pinner Park Poet

Special
Edition



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A New Phase

Today we enter a new phase for Pinner Park Primary School. Our school closure means that we are physically distant, but together in community.

We hope that parents are able to access our online home learning materials. Please do contact us if you are having difficulty.

**NEWS
UPDATE**

The information in today's newsletter is designed to keep you up to date, but also to give you useful information as your children are learning from home.

We have always aimed to be very open and transparent with our school community so that we can work together to win this battle with COVID-19. The news over the weekend, and the information from government, means that we all have to 'step up' our efforts. Please read the information in this edition carefully and take action.

Thank you for your understanding at this time.

Nick Waldron

Headteacher

Collection of Personal Belongings and Learning Resources



We had intended to open up the school at set times during this week to enable parents to collect belongings and exercise books for their children.

In the light of the government advice over the weekend, we have decided that we do not want to do anything which would lead to greater social mixing or contact. The advice is very clear: stay home.

Therefore, we will no longer be opening the school for anything other than essential visits. We know that you will understand our reasons and we do appreciate your support.

If your child's medication is in school, and you need this to be at home, please send an email to the school office and we will make arrangements with you.

Social Distancing and Isolation

You will, I am sure, have noticed the government's renewed emphasis on social distancing and what this means.

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
- If you have to go outside - to buy food for example - stay more than 2m apart from others

Please take this advice very seriously and only leave the house if it is absolutely necessary.



Support for Home Learning

We'll try and give you as much support as possible over the coming weeks. Here are some top tips for home learning:

- Get into a routine. Children like structure. Help your child prepare a daily and weekly timetable. This can work around the time you have available to support – it doesn't have to be the school schedule.
- Clearly define 'work time' and 'break time'. Make sure you build in lots of breaks. Working at home is much more intense than working in school!
- Give your child encouragement. These are challenging times. Such a sudden change will be unsettling for many children.
- If your child gets stuck on a topic, ask us. Or, if it's easier, move on to something else.
- Encourage your child to contact their teachers if they need help that you can't provide – you can use the 'live chat' on our website or the office email address. We are in the process of setting up a contact email address for each year group.
- Your child may complete their work more quickly while schooling at home. So reward them with time off to do an activity they enjoy such as kicking a football in the garden or watching a favourite TV programme.
- Remember that the school curriculum includes art, music, drama, physical activity, computing, design technology and much more – keep it varied!
- Try and balance online learning with more traditional approaches.
- Use other resources if this will benefit your child – there are lots of online and off-line resources available – please use them if this is easier than tackling the 'Learning Project' - we are flexible!



Support for Key Workers

We are very grateful to parents and carers, including a number of key workers, for making arrangements for their child to stay at home. This is safest for everyone – your child, your family, our staff and their families, and our entire community.

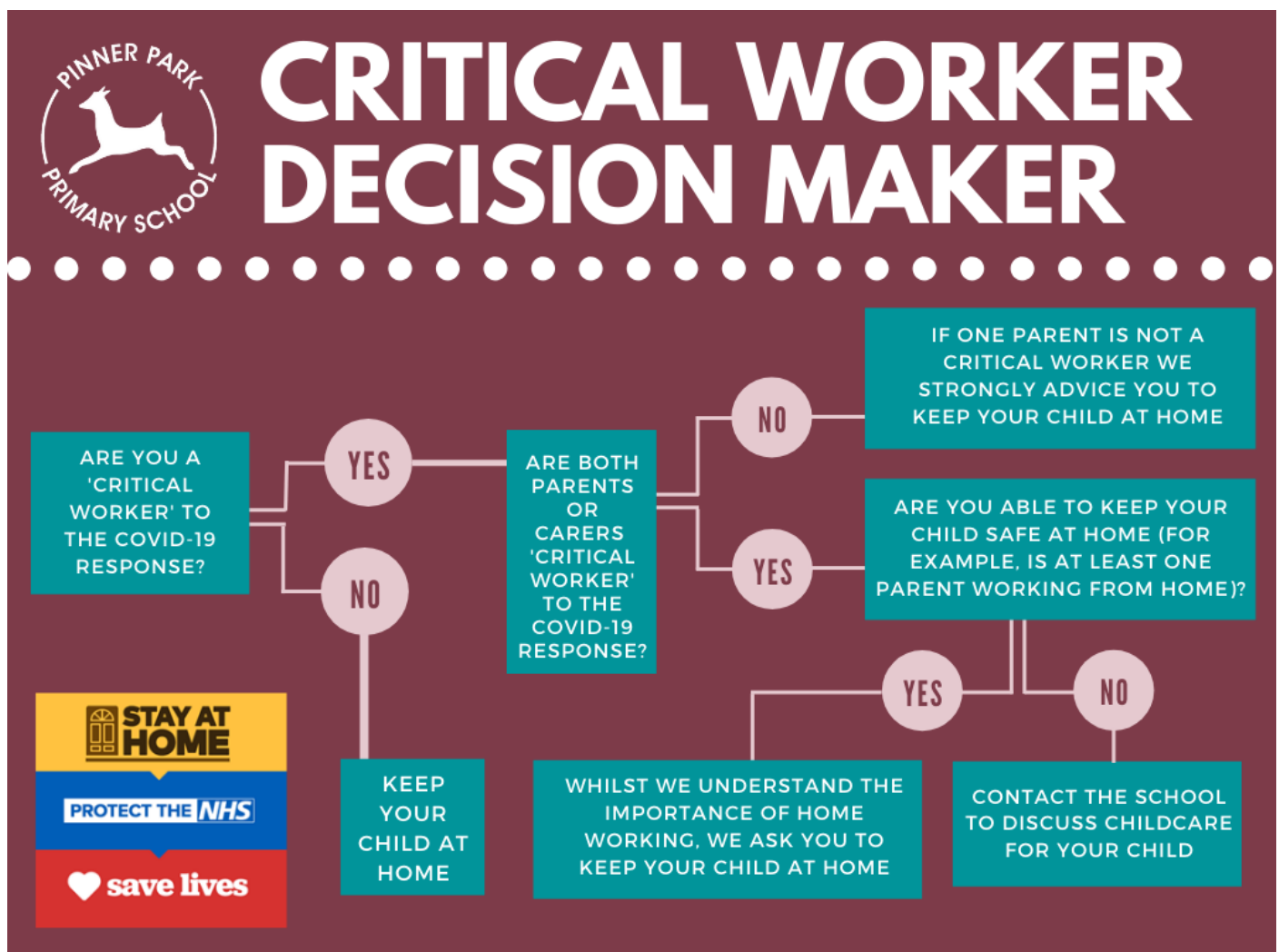


We have had a very small number of children in to school today, which is great news for everyone.

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 are able to ensure their child is kept at home. **Every child who can be safely cared for at home should be.**

If you require support with childcare, please contact us using the office email address. We will speak with you and we may ask for some further information about your work, your place of work, and your childcare arrangements. We may ask you to provide some proof regarding your work situation. Please only request a place for your child if it is absolutely necessary.

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



Well Being, Mental Health and Getting Support



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.

Keeping in Contact.

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.

We have set up a 'live chat' facility on our school website. We will try and keep this open as much as possible – this will enable you to speak directly to a member of staff about anything.



Online Resources – Under Pressure!



Some of the online resources used by many schools – DB Primary, Times Tables Rockstars, Numbots etc – have been under great pressure today with higher than usual traffic! The teams are working quickly to increase capacity so please don't give up!

We will add more online resources to our Home Learning pages so that you have more choice, should you not be able to log in for any reason. If you're stuck for a password, speak to us!

Learning Live!

In each of our newsletters we will try and highlight some resources which you may find useful at home.

There are a number of 'live' events which may help you and your family to feel connected.

Here's two great events to get you started...

Each morning at 9am, **Joe Wicks** (The Body Coach) is leading a fitness session which you can do in your own home. The session is on YouTube each day. Let's get everyone moving at 9.00am!

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCAxW1XT0iEJo0TYIRfn6rYQ>

Steven Vinacour, author of Ted and his Time Travelling Toilet, visited our school last week. He is hosting a 'Creative Writing for Kids' session at 5pm on his Facebook page. He is aiming to write a book with our help. He'll collate all our ideas and turn it into a novel to be given away for free. **Tune in at 5pm today!**

<https://www.facebook.com/stevenvinacourauthor/>



Use of Social Media



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.



PROTECT THE **NHS**

♥ **save lives**