

The Pinner Park Post



Learning • Character • Community

Volume 2 | Issue 6 | Friday 9 October 2020

Continuing to be a 'Meet and Greet' school!

As a school, we are committed to meeting and greeting every learner as they come into our school and classrooms each day.

We know that a friendly face greeting learners, day after day, creates an interaction that builds relationships and makes everyone feel valued.

A greeting lets everyone know that they are an important part of our school and we're glad you're here!

You'll notice our senior leaders out and about every morning and afternoon, and our classroom staff greet the children as they come into class.

It works both ways, of course – it is wonderful to receive a warm greeting as much as it is to give one.

During this period, this is more challenging – it is difficult to see a smile when obscured by a face covering, and we can't shake hands! Nonetheless, we are getting used to some alternatives – a wave, a raise of the eyebrows, or a warm 'good morning'!

Have a great weekend!

Best wishes,

Headteacher



No Parking, No Waiting, No Excuse!

You will be sure to recognise the yellow and white zig-zag lines outside our school. These lines are there to prevent parking at key moments in the school day – they are there to keep our children and families safe.

If you park or wait on the yellow lines, you are putting children's lives at risk.

Please don't park or wait on these zig-zags for any reason.



All About Reading and Phonics – Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 Parents

We are planning three briefing events, one each for the parents of children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2.

These briefings will be an opportunity to focus on phonics and reading. You'll hear all about how we will teach your child to become a great reader and how you can help at home!

You can learn all about phonemes, graphemes, blending and segmenting, sound buttons, reading levels, phonics games, reading schemes, real books, tricky words and more.

The sessions will be held virtually, as a Microsoft Live event. We'll send details of dates and times through School Ping next week, so please watch out for that notification.



Parent and Teacher Consultations



There is the opportunity this half term to book a ten minute appointment with your child's teacher to discuss how your child has settled into the school year.

The appointments are available after school during the final week of the half term.

In order to reduce the risk of Covid-19 transmission, these appointments will be held remotely, either through a telephone call or video link (Microsoft Teams). You will be able to choose which suits you best.

The information about booking an appointment has been sent through SchoolPing. Each class teacher has a schedule of availability and you can book a ten minute slot. We will need to keep strictly to time so that we can fit everyone in.

When you make your appointment we will ask you to let us know, in the comments box, the following information:

1. If you would prefer a video conversation, through Microsoft Teams, or a phone call
2. If you prefer a phone call, which number to contact you on

School Photographs



We have booked our school photographer to take individual portraits on Tuesday 20 October. Following this, you will receive information about how to order photographs.

Due to the protective measures we have in place to reduce the likelihood of COVID-19 transmission, we won't be able to do sibling photographs this year.

PTA Meeting – All Parents are Warmly Invited



The date of the PTA Annual General Meeting is approaching. It is on THURSDAY 5 NOVEMBER from 6.30pm to 7.30pm.

All parents are welcome to attend and are warmly invited. We especially welcome parents of children who are new to the school. The PTA is a group of parents and staff who work in the very best interests of the children of Pinner Park Primary School.

At the AGM each year we appoint the officers of the PTA, hear about the work of the PTA over the past year, and think ahead to the coming year.

Please put the date in your diary. Due to Covid-19 restrictions we will be holding the meeting 'virtually' and the joining details will be sent by SchoolPing straight after half term.

Family-School Partnership Award – SURVEY REMINDER

We are taking part in a scheme being run in Ealing, Harrow and Brent which will help us to think about how we work with families and support us to build stronger links between home and school. This very much reflects our belief that parents are our key partners, as expressed in our new Foundation Statement.

We will be looking at lots of different areas including: the school environment; how we communicate and how we help you to support learning at home.

The first step is to gather the views of everyone involved in school life: parents and carers; all staff and Governors.

To help us make decisions about how we work in the future we need the views of as many parents as possible. Please help by taking part in the online survey. The short survey is anonymous and can be done online by following this link: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/Pinnerparkparents>

It is open now and will close on Wednesday 21st October.

At the end of the survey there are some questions which relate directly to the COVID-19 lockdown and partial school closures. When answering all other questions, please think about how things are in more 'normal' times!

Once we have the results we will let you know the areas we plan to work on – and we will keep you informed of our progress via emails and the school newsletter. If you have any questions please contact us (office@pinnerpark.harrow.sch.uk).



FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA
@PinnerParkSch



School Lunches – Book now on ParentPay

We are working with Chartwells, our catering company, to reintroduce hot meals after half term. These will still be served in classes (for children in Years 1 – 6, and in the hall for Reception children).

The menu, and all the allergen information, are available on the school website:

<https://pinnerpark.harrow.sch.uk/school-meals.html>

The meals are now available to book on ParentPay.



Using DB Primary



DB Primary is a cloud-based platform, which gives schools a safe and secure environment for staff and pupils to collaborate.

Because DB Primary is all web-based, children can access DB Primary anywhere with just a web browser and internet connection – there is nothing else they need to install on their computer.

Each child has an account for DB Primary – please let us know if you are not sure of your child's log-in details.

Each child will be a member of one or more 'communities'. There may be a class community, a year community, or some special interest communities (for example, 'Healthy Heroes'). We have also set up a Remote Learning community for each year group for children to access if they are required to self-isolate.

You can access all the communities your child is registered for by clicking on the 'communities' tab at the bottom left of the DB Primary home page (as indicated by the red arrow in the screenshot below).



Hand Sanitiser – Children in Years 3 - 6

Some parents have asked if children can bring their own hand sanitiser to use in school. This is because they prefer a particular brand, or because a particular type suits their child's skin.

We have reviewed this and, from next week, we will permit children in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 to bring in a small hand sanitiser if you wish. This will be kept in their personal 'zippy bag' and will be used when the teacher advises the children they should sanitise. We won't allow sanitiser to be kept in pockets or bags.

Please ensure that your child's sanitiser is clearly named. We won't allow children to share.

We will, of course, continue to provide hand sanitiser to all children – in the class and at all the main entrances to school.



Year 6 – Secondary School Admissions



If your child is in Year 6, you can now apply for a secondary school place, online at: www.harrow.gov.uk/schooladmissions or www.eadmissions.org.uk.

The closing date is 31 October 2020

It is really important that you apply by the closing date. There is further information in the [Harrow Guide to Secondary Schools](#).

If you have any difficulty making your application please do let us know as soon as possible.

Staff Spotlight



We have a large staff team, and many of our members of staff work behind the scenes – vital to the school, but often unseen.

This week, we want to highlight Mrs Sachania, our learning mentor.

Mrs Sachania is not based in a particular class – she works throughout the school. Her work is very varied – you'll find her in the hall first thing in the morning, often outside at playtimes and lunchtimes, or around the school during the school day.

As a learning mentor, Mrs Sachania works alongside individuals or groups of children. The role is as varied as the children in our school! For some children, Mrs Sachania is able to talk with them, discuss their learning, identify any barriers to learning and make a difference. For others, it may be a specific intervention to support their well-being and learning. For others it might be working as part of a group to support social interaction skills. And much more!

Speaking to your child's teacher



We know that it is difficult for parents to speak with teachers at the moment. With our social distancing measures in place it is difficult to speak with them at the beginning and end of the school day. Nonetheless, if you have a quick message or question, your child's teacher will be pleased to talk with you at these times!

We do want to respond to any queries and questions so please do speak to your child's teacher or use these alternatives. You can use these for passing messages on, or for requesting a phonecall from your child's teacher.

- Leave a message at the outdoor 'Parent Info Point' on the Upper School playground (look for the green gazebo). This is our 'outdoor office' whilst we have limited access to the school building for visitors.
- Send an email to your child's year group email address (for non-urgent queries) or to the school office (for more urgent enquiries). You can also request a call back.

Please remember that the Year Group emails are responded to, on average, once per week so please speak to your child's teacher, visit the Parent Info Point, or email the school office for more urgent enquiries.

All About Play

Each class 'bubble' is currently allocated a 'zone' in which to play at playtime and lunchtime. These are regularly rotated so that children can enjoy different areas of the outdoor spaces through the term.

We have prepared a set of resources for each bubble to use at playtimes and lunchtimes. These are a mixture of 'loose parts', which can be used imaginatively by the children, and more traditional toys and games.

The equipment is limited to a single bubble but will be rotated through the term.



Calling all local businesses

We would love to work with local businesses to build up our stock of 'loose parts'. Business waste can become fantastic resources for our children. We can help you to manage your waste and you can support your local community school!

Take a look at our website for further information, or get in touch:

<https://pinnerpark.harrow.sch.uk/loose-parts.html>

REMINDER: Friday 23 October is an INSET day
School will be closed to children on this day

To Parents and Carers of Pupils at Harrow Schools

6 October 2020

Covid-19 and seasonal coughs and colds

As children return to school and we move towards winter, we expect to see colds and other viral illnesses circulating. This year the Covid-19 infection is also expected to circulate.

You may have seen some debate about whether Covid-19 in children, particularly younger children, might cause symptoms other than the typical cough, fever and change in sense of taste and smell. I am writing to provide you with updated medical advice which I hope will help you decide when to keep your child away from school and when to request a test.

The Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health has just issued very helpful advice. The College Doctors reviewed the scientific evidence from the UK and international studies and have concluded that:

Children with cold symptoms, in particular a runny nose or sore throat, who do not have a fever or cough or a change in their sense of taste and smell should, if otherwise well, be in school and should not be tested for Covid-19.

My colleagues in the NHS in NW London have developed a simple flow chart which is attached at the end of this letter.

Tests should therefore only be requested for children or adults who have:

- **a high temperature**
- **a new, continuous cough** – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- **a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste**

If you or your child need to self-isolate because someone in the household has symptoms or because you have been in contact with a positive case, please do **not** request a test unless you or your child develops symptoms. A negative test during self isolation **does not** mean you can cut short self isolation. This is because the incubation period of the virus (the time between becoming infected and developing symptoms) can be up to 14 days.

The Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health also concluded that:

- children, particularly those of primary school age and younger, are less likely to become infected with coronavirus
- children generally have a much milder illness than adults
- children transmit the virus less easily than adults.

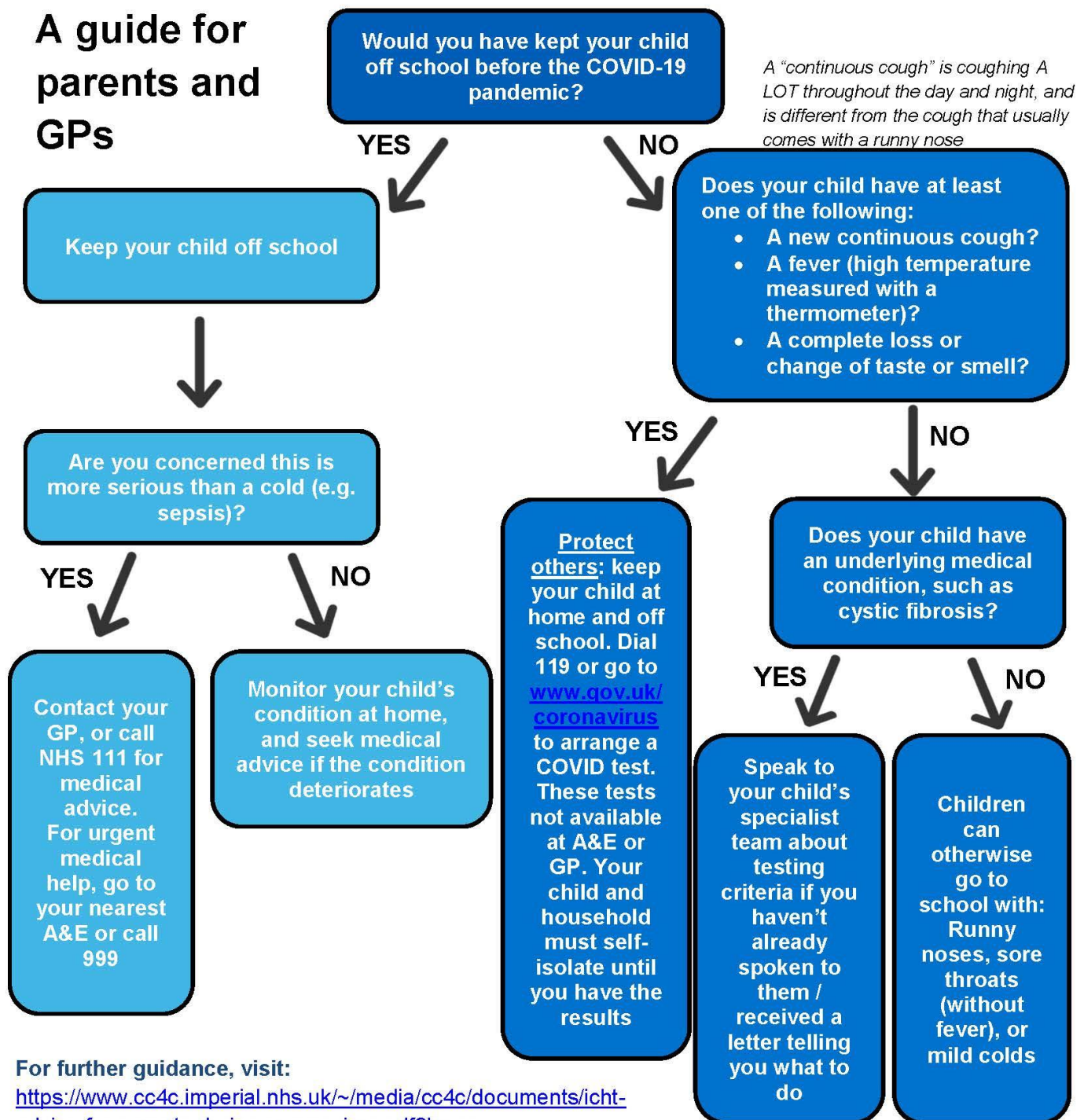
Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Carole Furlong".

Carole Furlong
Director of Public Health
Harrow Council

Should I send my child to school?

A guide for parents and GPs



A "continuous cough" is coughing A LOT throughout the day and night, and is different from the cough that usually comes with a runny nose

For further guidance, visit:
<https://www.cc4c.imperial.nhs.uk/~media/cc4c/documents/icht-advice-for-parents-during-coronavirus.pdf?la=en>

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Adapted from the original diagram by Dr Simon Hodes, Dr Ashley Reece and Dr Sarah Fissler, with thanks