



Pear Tree Newsletter March 27th, 2026

Dear Pear Tree Families,

This has, as always, been a busy term with lots going on in both schools. I would encourage you to read the full newsletter as there is important staffing updates towards the end.

Below are a few snapshots of events that we have enjoyed during the last 3 months.



Both Year 5 classes had a fantastic time in Storey Arms, developing new skills including resilience and independence, and we are very proud of their behaviour and commitment to have a go at all the activities. Activities included gorge walking, mountain walks and a night walk. This year we were able to resume our one night residential with year 4 pupils visiting the Urdd centre in Cardiff Bay. They took part in swimming, ice skating, bowling and a boat trip around the bay whilst also

experiencing, for what was many, their first night away from home without family.

A big thank you to the staff that volunteered to give up their own time to ensure that these residential can go ahead.

This term has been a real celebration of the Welsh culture. This has included our annual Eisteddfods where both schools crowned their year 6 bards in an official ceremony following the historic traditions of the Eisteddfod. Tongwynlais entered the Eisteddfod Yr Urdd competition for the second year running where they performed a Welsh recital. This year we have seen an increase in pupils wanting to take part in this competition which shows the good work that Criw Cymraeg have undertaken in promoting the Welsh culture and ethos.



Both schools have participated in various sporting events over the course of the term including football and work is progressing well on the federation show which will be showcased during the summer term. The Wizard of Oz will be performed in the village hall in Tongwynlais.



Both schools have been on a range of educational trips to enhance their context learning. Years 3 and 4 at Tongwynlais had a very enjoyable trip to the National Museum of Wales. Year 4 at Coryton attended Rhiwbina Baptist church for the annual Easter explored.

Both schools have been able to run a community project with Cook stars. Parents have been able to come in to school with their children to undertake cooking-based activities strengthening links with the community. There were some delicious smells of samosas reaching my office last week although sadly none were shared with me.

Parent governors

We are looking for 2 Coryon parent governors due to Mrs Hawoldar changing from being a parent governor to a LEA governor and Mrs Malik standing down after serving for 12 years. A very big, heartfelt thank you to Mrs Malik for all the support she has given over the years. We are sending out parent governor election forms and would really like to ask you to consider applying. The governing body is made up of a wide range of members who are all very supportive, friendly and passionate about making a positive difference for the children that attend both schools. If you aren't sure whether it is something for you please contact me and I can go through what the role entails. If you would like to apply, please return the form by Tuesday 14th April.

Communication

We will no longer be using Parentmail as a way of communicating to families. Parentmail is a service that both schools have had to pay for in the past however the new Arbor system allows us to email at no extra cost. We are hopeful that you will have received the test email sent out recently, if not please contact either school to let us know.

For those who have newly joined our schools, can we please say that if you have any questions or queries, the school office numbers are Coryton 02920 616792 and Tongwynlais 02920810383. Email addresses are corytonprm@cardiff.gov.uk and tongwynlaisprm@cardiff.gov.uk . Our admin officers are always the first port of call for everyday questions, or help.

If you do need to change any of your contact details, you are now able to do this yourself by logging in to Arbor. Not having up to date contact details could become a children's services matter. So please reach out to us if you are having difficulty in changing your details.



Seesaw is an app that we use to be able to share information predominantly around your children's learning in school. The children will also take photos and post videos of their activities in school. School staff may also share class specific information via the app. **However, it is important that any questions from families are sent into the main admin officers for passing on as school staff don't regularly check Seesaw during the school day.** We have had instances where families have communicated information about changes in adults collecting at the end of the school day which haven't been seen.

Our school phonedlines are always open from 8.00-4.00pm although parents and carers are not 'physically' allowed back into the buildings, once school has closed for the day for security reasons, except by prior arrangement of course. If messages are sent outside of the working day or on the weekends, we would not expect staff to answer until normal working hours. In an emergency, however, please email me at Gareth.james3@cardiff.gov.uk.

We also have a closed Facebook page which families are able to join. Please search for the Pear Tree Federation group. There will be a few questions available only to admin officers to ensure that we are only allowing access to families. We use this as a secondary way of communicating information shared via Arbor especially if there are matters that families would need to know urgently. Our website can be found at <https://www.thepeartreefederation.co.uk/>. From here you will be able to access key information and landing pages to both school's websites. These will be updated periodically over the course of the year.

A few other gentle reminders as we move to the summer term ...

- **School uniform** - we wanted to remind families of the school expectations on uniform that have been agreed by the governing body. If your child has a particular concern regarding uniform e.g. a sensory issue linked to an ALN diagnosis, please contact school to chat to the ALNCo. We have plenty of items in both sharing sheds so please contact us if you need any uniform.

Coryton - Blue sweatshirt or cardigan with/ without school logo, blue or white polo shirt with/ without school logo, black trousers, shorts or skirt, blue checked summer dresses and black shoes.

Tongwynlais - Red sweatshirt or cardigan with/ without school logo, red or white polo shirt with/ without school logo, black trousers, shorts or skirt, red checked summer dresses and black shoes.

- **Jewellery/ make-up** – we are asking all families to support us in sending in your children to school with no jewellery or make-up on. We had several health and safety issues with regards to necklaces/ bracelets and earrings being damaged causing injury/ distress during the last academic term. Class teachers will be asking children to remove jewellery to be handed back at the end of the day. Stud earrings are permitted on the understanding that these are taped over during PE activities. No child should be wearing make-up or fake nails to school and, as per high school rules, we would discourage families allowing their children to wear nail varnish to school. If your child wears jewellery due to religious reasons, please contact me to discuss the matter further.
- **PE kit** - should be black shorts/ tracksuit bottoms/ leggings and a plain top e.g. white top or house colour top. We don't expect to see children wearing expensive football kits to school which could be damaged
- **PARKING outside of school** - please be polite and courteous to residents when parking safely at drop off and pick up times. We typically get several complaints a year about this from local residents with parents blocking drives and sometimes parking on them and as you can imagine this takes considerable time on our behalf to resolve. 😊
- **School Day Times** - School starts at 8.55am not 9.00am, except for nursery classes, please be in the line ready to join the class to come into school for 8.55am. We will be closely monitoring attendance and punctuality at school and will contact families if a pattern emerges. The local authority will also be working with schools to improve on attendance % and late gates. If your child is late, parents must sign the Late Books in school and not take them directly to classrooms. A valid reason also needs to be given as these are recorded.
- **Healthy snacks** – Your children can have healthy snacks during morning playtimes. We have noticed that more children are bringing in crisps/ cereal bars/ sweets. We will be continuing to discourage this and would like your support in checking what your children are bringing in. We would recommend a piece of fruit.



A reminder of planned events during the Summer term

- Our remaining INSET days will be held on 30th April, 1st May and July 20th. School will be closed to all pupil on these days.
- Coryton planned sports day is the 21st May (reserve date 18th June)
- Tongwynlais planned sports day is the 12th June (reserve date 19th June)

Sad news to share

At Coryton primary school I am sorry to share the news that our fantastic admin officer, Mrs Wells, will be leaving us. Mrs Wells has been successful in being appointed as a finance and admissions officer at Whitchurch High school. Whilst we are very sorry to see her go, we are excited for her next adventure. I know many of you will have appreciated her positive engagement with you over the last few years and I would personally like to publicly thank her for the brilliant support she has been, not just to the school and myself but to the wider community.

We have sent an advert through to be published on eteach next week for a level 3, grade 4 admin full time admin support officer (I will share this when it is published). If this is something that you would be interested in but would like to find out further information around the role please get in touch. We're looking for someone who is personable, patient, and adaptable - ready to handle a wide variety of tasks with warmth, professionalism, and a smile. You may not have had experience of this type of role but please don't let that put you off as we are able to provide support and training around the role.

Cleaner

We are also looking to appoint a cleaner for a vacant 10hr per week role at Tongwynlais working alongside Dawn. This would equate to 2 hours a day and whilst needing to be outside of school opening hours (8.55am – 3.05pm) working hours can be flexible to meet the needs of the person appointed. An advert will be published on eteach next week but again if this is something you are interested in finding more information about, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Pupils' Achievements Outside of School

Please tell us if you have anything special to share. We love to hear what the children are getting up to outside of school. Recently we have been informed about two Tongwynlais pupils performing in the Hoddinott Hall in the Millennium centre in the foundation orchestra and percussion groups. We also have had news of pupils doing incredibly well in various martial arts.

Finally, we just wanted to say that we are here to work with you and your children. We want this to be a successful partnership so that your children have the best possible outcomes whilst they are in our schools. From time to time, things do go wrong and if they do, please speak to your child's teacher at the end of the day, or just contact the school office to relay a message. They are always your first port of call; if there are trickier matters, then a school leader will always step in to help. And, if there is anything at all we can do to help on any matter, please ask.

Kind regards

Mr James & Team (Federation Headteacher)