



Pear Tree Federation Welcome back to school newsletter

September 1st, 2026

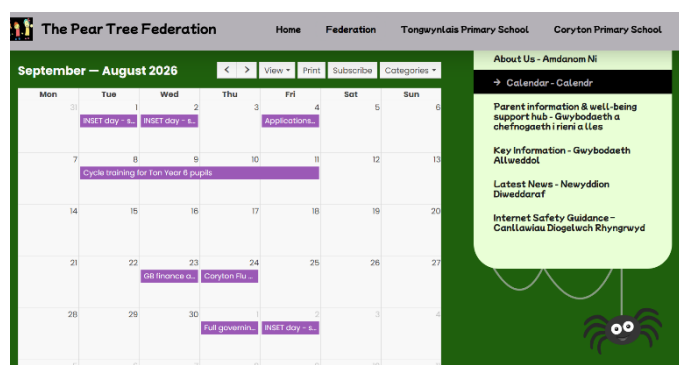
Dear Pear Tree Families,



Firstly, a huge welcome back to all our families, new and old. We hope that you have had a lovely summer break enjoying the lovely weather and that your children are looking forward to coming back to school and getting to know their new teachers and new routines. Coming back to school can be an exciting time for children but for some it can also be hard. If your child is feeling anxious about the return to school or you have concerns that you would like to share, please send a message to the main school email addresses or to myself directly and I will pass it on.

In the next few weeks, we will send home the autumn school calendar, and this will include key dates including those for Parents' Evenings and Christmas concerts too so that everyone can get important dates in the diary early.

For those of you that like to keep an electronic calendar please head to our website - <https://www.pearreefederationprmsch.co.uk> – and click on to the calendar to subscribe. This will automatically pull through dates that are added. All the term dates and INSET days, with the exception of one left to secure, have been added to the website. Please note that there is one more INSET day this Autumn term on Friday 2nd October.



A separate communication will be sent home about any extra-curricular clubs (after-school) that may be taking place this term.

All primary children in Wales can take up the offer of a free lunch as per the Welsh Government initiative. Please could we remind parents that it is your responsibility to log-in to Parentpay to make your child's food choices. We would encourage children to be part of this process so that they are aware of what they will be eating. If you have any difficulties with Parentpay please contact the main school offices for support. Now that the academic year has started you should be able to login and book for the next few weeks. We will support our new reception families over the first few days to make sure that bookings have been made.

Communication

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. We are very pleased at Coryton to welcome Mrs Gamage as our new admin assistant. Her email address is Selina.Gangar@cardiff.gov.uk and Mrs Woods at Tongwynlais is julie.woods3@cardiff.gov.uk. Our admin officers are always the first port of call for everyday questions, or help.

For families who had children in both schools last year you will be familiar with Arbor. If you have changed any of your contact details over the summer holidays (addresses, emails or phone numbers), please go onto the parent portal and make the changes. Alternatively, please let the school office know and we can change them for you. Not having up to date contact details could become a children's services matter.



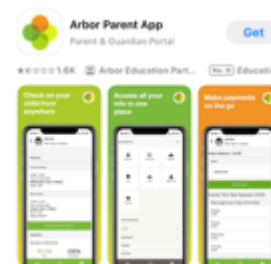
For new families please follow the guide below:

Getting started - Log into the Parent Portal and the Parent App

The Parent App can be downloaded from either the Playstore on android phones or the Apple Store on iPhones. If you are unable to download the app the site is accessible through various search engines.

As a school we have set up an account for you. To finish creating your account you just need to set a password. Your username is the email address we've sent this email to.

Go to <https://login.arbor.sc> and click **Forgot your password?** to finish setting up your account.



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. For new families Seesaw signing information will be provided within the first few days of your child starting.

Our school phonelines are always open from 8.30-3.30pm 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 garethjames@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 Parentmail especially if there are matters that families would need to know urgently. Our websites have had an overhaul during the summer holidays. The link to get there is

A few other gentle reminders ...

- **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.

Tongywnlais - 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.

We politely request that all items of clothing are marked with your children's names as each year we have a large amount of unclaimed lost property.

- **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** –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 Signing in device 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 discouraging this and would like your support in checking what your children are bringing in. We would recommend a piece of fruit.



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.

Building work at both schools

Both schools have had significant work undertaken over the summer holidays. Please see updates for each school below.

Cortyon:

We have had a welcome overhaul of the security fencing around the school site predominantly due to deterioration of existing boundary fencing. This means that there is a brand-new intercom system at the main entrance linked to the front office. There has also been some lovely painting of the front exterior of the school and of the internal welcome area as part of ongoing renovation.

Tongwynlais:

As families will be aware at the end of the summer term the long-awaited work to improve the drainage scheme of the whole school site was agreed by the local authority. Alongside this the KS2 toilets in the main building were planned to be refurbished. I am pleased to say that the toilets have been completed and look fantastic. I am sure that the children will be very pleased as this is a brilliant transformation from what they looked like beforehand.

In terms of the drainage scheme an incredible amount of work has already been achieved and I have been informed that they are well ahead of schedule. In terms of the work that has been completed the foundation phase area (Nursery – Year 2) has been completed with the final green crumb going down today. This will be usable by pupils early next week and means we are now in the position that we can plan lane markings and seek landlord consent from the local authority for other projects. The portacabin toilets have now been removed as the main building toilets are fully working.

The car park at the rear of school has also been completed and currently tarmac is being laid by the year 1 and 2 entrance points. In terms of the remainder of the drainage work the first half of the school yard has been





completed to ensure that there is outside space available for the pupils during breaktimes. There will be a rota including use of the barn area to ensure that pupils have adequate breakout space whilst the work is being completed. The school site will still be classed as an active construction site for the next few weeks and there will be access restrictions to families however there will be a separate communication sent out tomorrow explaining what these are. Whilst there will be some unavoidable disruption over the next few weeks, we are very excited about

how fantastic the school area will look like after this and that we will be able to move forward with plans to improve pupil's outdoor learning experiences.

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 experiences and 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 issues, 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)