



Pear Tree Newsletter November 7th 2025

Dear Pear Tree Families,

We hope that your all had a lovely half term break and that the children have settled back into the second half of the Autumn term. The first 8 weeks were busy in school, and it was lovely to see all the pupils return to school and to welcome our new families. Despite the disruption to the start back to school for some of our younger learners at Tongwynlais, pupils have settled in well in their new classes.



We have already held key events in both schools. The Macmillan coffee morning at Tongwynlais was held on the 26th of September and was a valuable community event in welcoming our new families into school whilst also raising funds for the charity. Coryton held their event after school on Thursday 2nd October which was well received by families. A big thank you to all those who donated cakes.



The Autumn fete at Coryton was its usual fantastic event raising a significant amount of money. The entire community came out to support the event and the PTA worked tirelessly to create a fun-packed afternoon that had everything from snakes, to tombolas, bouncy slides and more. A huge thank you to the PTA for their hard work.

A special thank you also to 5 pupils in year 5 at Tongwynlais primary school who have carried out their own cake sale outside of school raising a fantastic £50! School Council and the pupils who raised the money will have a say in how it is spent.



Year 6 classes had a fantastic time in Llangrannog undertaking a wide range of activities. They were a pleasure to take away and represented the federation brilliantly. A big thank you to the staff that gave up their evenings to take the children away. Plans are now in place for Year 5's visit to Storey Arms and shortly we will be communicating with Year 4 families regarding the one night residential in March.



There have been various other trips over the course of the term to enrich the curriculum and support context work, and these have included Technquest for Year 5 and Year 6 and Big Pit for Year 3 and 4.





The Wilding committee at Tongwynlais continue to work with Mrs Burge and Andy to improve aspects of the school grounds – we are the only school in Wales who have been part of this project. Year 6 were also in the fortunate position where they had a virtual visit with Alex Wharton, a Welsh author. There will be lots more exciting opportunities for the children over the next few months.



The school council pupils in both schools have worked with Miss Francis to decide on the theme for Children in Need Day on Friday 14th November. It will be a wear your pyjamas to school day. The children are more than welcome to bring slippers to wear in school – please could we encourage you to write names on any labels.

We have a lot of lost property school uniform now – more than we can store so please contact the school office if you are short of anything and we can see what we have.

Please read the important information below as there are key updates for families

Cardiff local authority is in the process of migrating all schools from our current hosted sims platform to a new one run by Arbor. Both schools have been included in the first phase of this, and we have now successfully migrated over. Within the next few weeks, we will send home a data capture sheet to all families to ensure that all our contact details are correct for your children. It is important that this information is returned to school. Whilst there will be no changes to Parentpay there will be a period where new families to the school since October won't be able to be set up on there for booking of school meals. We will liaise with these families during this period of disruption so that school meals can be booked.

Please can we request that all families make every effort to book their child's dinners prior to 8am. On Monday this week in one school we had 21 children who had not booked meals, and this led to some children not being able to have what they wanted as kitchen staff prepare meals from 7am based on those numbers booked. If you are having problem booking meals, please contact school staff who would be more than happy to help.

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. Mrs Well's email at Coryton is Rachel.Wells@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.

We will be continuing to use Parentmail as our main form of communication however there will be a move over to Arbor at some point this academic year. Our Parentmail® systems run on phone and email numbers so if there are changes, you won't receive communications from us. Not having up to date contact details could become a children's services matter. Likewise, if you are having issues with logging in to Parentmail please reach out to us for help.



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. The message function on Seesaw will shortly be turned off as 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 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 can 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 however there were some technical issues with the setup of them. I can now confirm that the website is now live, and staff are working to update the information on there over the next few weeks. The link to get there is <https://www.peartreefederationprmsch.co.uk>. From here you will be able to access key information and landing pages to both school's websites.

Tongwynlais Buildings

Thank you for your patience over the last couple of months. Behind the scenes an awful lot of work has been going on where the school has been working with the local authority school's organisation and building team to plan important work that needs to be undertaken at the school site. A full and comprehensive drain survey has now been undertaken, and work will be planned to update drainage across the whole school site. I am pleased to say that the indoor toilets are now back in use however the portakabin toilets will remain as they may be required when planned construction work is undertaken.

It is likely that work will begin on repairing and future protecting the main building stonework early in the new year and there are plans in place to improve security systems at the front of the school. We are also anticipating the long-awaited refurbishment of the KS2 toilets some point before the end of the academic year. Whilst it can feel and look like your children are attending a building site, please be reassured that this isn't impacting on their learning or the experiences being provided for them.

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.

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 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)