



Pear Tree Newsletter September 9th 2025

Dear Pear Tree Families,



We hope that your children have settled back in to school and are 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 difficult. If your child is still 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.

Later this week, 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. Extra-curricular clubs (after-school) will also be starting back-up in the next week or two and a separate communication will be sent home about this.

All primary children in Wales are now able to 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.

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.

If you have changed any of your contact details over the summer holidays (addresses, emails or phone numbers), please let the office know as a priority so that we can get in touch. 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. 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 8.30-3.30pm 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 <https://www.peartreefederationprmsch.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 ...

- **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** – for pupils in years 3 – 6 PE kit is to be brought into school on the days teachers advise. Pupils in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 & 2 can wear PE kit to school. 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 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.

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, 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)