



With trust and care we will grow and flourish

Pear Tree Community Junior School

Dear Parents / Carers,

Thank you for your patience and understanding during the current situation. As parents ourselves, we fully appreciate the level of concern regarding the Coronavirus. It is a situation that has never happened before and will hopefully never happen again.

To keep parents informed we have put together a series of Frequently Asked Questions, which are based on the latest advice from the Government (Monday 16th March 2020). Please be aware that as things move quickly some of the advice may change.

We will continue to communicate with you to keep you fully informed.

Best wishes to you and your family during this challenging time.

Mrs B. Suddhi & Mr A. Sharp
Head Teachers of Pear Tree Schools

Coronavirus – Frequently Asked Questions

Why is school still open?

Current advice remains in place: no education or children's social care setting should close in response to a suspected or confirmed COVID-19 case unless advised to do so by Public Health England. Decisions on future advice to schools will be taken based on the latest and best scientific evidence, which at this stage suggests children are a lower risk group.

What should I do if my child is ill?

Your child should stay at home if anyone in your household have either:

- a high temperature – you feel hot to touch on your chest or back
- a new, continuous cough – this means you've started coughing repeatedly

Please let school know by ringing the school office.

Should I take my child to see the doctor if they have a high temperature or a new continuous cough?

- Do not go to a GP surgery, pharmacy or hospital.
- You do not need to contact 111 to tell them you're staying at home.
- Testing for coronavirus is not needed if you're staying at home.
- You'll need to stay in isolation, away from other people, until you have recovered.

How long will I need to stay at home?

- As you live with other people, they should stay at home for 14 days from the day the first person got symptoms
- If you have to stay at home together, try to keep away from each other as much as possible.

What if my child becomes ill at school?

If children become unwell during the school day with **a new, continuous cough or a high temperature** parents will be contacted, and the pupil will be sent home and not expected to return for 14 days.

How do you avoid catching and spreading coronavirus?

Everyone should do what they can to stop coronavirus spreading: wash your hands with soap and water often – do this for at least 20 seconds

- always wash your hands when you get home or into school
- use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available
- cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze
- put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards
- avoid close contact with people who have symptoms of coronavirus
- only travel on public transport if you need to
- work from home, if you can
- avoid social activities, such as going to pubs, restaurants, theatres and cinemas
- avoid events with large groups of people

What measures is the school putting into place?

- All pupils have been taught how to wash their hands thoroughly and given more time to do so.
- We have provided more tissues for children to be able to catch it, bin it, kill it!
- All classrooms have separate bags for tissue waste which are thrown away at the end of the day
- We have cancelled all trips until at least Easter.
- All meetings that are not seen as essential have been postponed or cancelled
- We are cleaning and disinfecting regularly touched objects and surfaces more often than usual using high quality cleaning materials

Will the school close for a period of time?

School closures are a part of the measures that the government **may** use to contain the spread of the virus. Decisions on future advice to schools will be taken based on the latest and best scientific evidence. Schools will not close unless advised to do so by Public Health England.

Will the school provide work if the school is closed?

We are currently putting together work, books and resources that we will be able to send home if we are required to close. We will also provide online resources for those pupils who have access to the internet. If staff are able to be in school during the period closure, then further work may be collected.

Will the school provide food if my child is entitled to Free School Meals?

We are working with the catering staff to see how we can support children and families who are entitled to free school meals, to access food if the school is forced to close during school time.