

Pear Tree Mead Academy

Educating children 2 – 11

Pear Tree Mead, Harlow, CM18 7BY

☎ 01279 836181 Fax 01279 423504

headteacher@peartreemead.essex.sch.uk

Head Teacher Mrs C. Peden BA(Ed) (Hons)

Deputy Headteacher

Assistant Head Mrs Rebecca Arnould BA (Hons) PGCE
LLB (Hons) (PGCE)

Chair of Governors Mrs W Beckett

Mrs L Davies BA (ChEd)

SEND Co & Head of Early Years Mrs S Martin



Dear Parents.

Here we are, nearly at the end of the first Half Term in the school year and it has continued to be a strange time. As Governors, we are still conducting our meetings via Zoom – and we are missing being able to visit the children in their classrooms as we would usually. I think we all agree that we are heartily fed up with COVID as it disrupts everything.

However, annoying you find it, remember that at school, we are trying to protect you, your children, and our staff from COVID, the very best way we can.

School staff are following the ever-changing government guidance which they often get very little time to plan for before it needs to be implemented. Changes such as the one-way system has been heavily criticised by parents. The general requirement from parents is that more staff are manning entrances and exits. The level of manpower from staff that COVID has placed on the school has been beyond comprehension. Physically placing staff on stations, to simply ensure our adults in our own school community can follow rules, is an unreasonable expectation and one that should not be required.

On top of this, the constant flow of emailed complaints and concerns over this matter that all need responding to, is putting additional strain on staff who are already up to capacity at such a stressful time to be working in education settings. Limiting the number of people on site at one time has also needed to be implemented. This is not the school trying to be awkward – they are acting on Government guidance.

The requirement for children to stay away from school if they have any symptoms (even when we all know it's probably just a cough or cold) is also causing anxiety amongst parents, especially when parents have jobs to go to, and poorly children may mean disruption to their income. We really understand this is inconvenient but best protect our school community from COVID, this must be followed.

As a Governing board and I safely say I can speak for every member of staff by saying that we all want nothing more than to have things back to normal. But for



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now, the most important thing is that we ensure that you, your children, and all staff are protected and kept safe.

I ask that you act with kindness and thoughtfulness towards them. I do not want to hear that anyone has had to suffer verbal abuse because they have been asked to comply with our COVID requirements, and persistent verbal abuse will result in you being banned from school grounds. If you must do anything this year, please be kind.

W Beckett

W Beckett
Chair of Governors.

