

# Pear Tree Mead Academy

*Educating children 2 – 11*

Pear Tree Mead, Harlow, CM18 7BY

☎ 01279 836181 Fax 01279 423504

[headteacher@peartreemead.essex.sch.uk](mailto:headteacher@peartreemead.essex.sch.uk)

Head Teacher

Mrs C. Peden BA(Ed) (Hons)

Chair of Governors Mrs W Beckett

Deputy Headteacher

Mrs L Davies BA (ChEd)

Assistant Head Mrs Rebecca Arnould BA (Hons) PGCE

SEND Co & Head of Early Years Mrs S Martin LLB (Hons) (PGCE) NASENCO



Dear Parents

I am now writing to let you know about the Covid guidance for September 2021. Please read this carefully so that you are aware of the changes for the coming year.

We have now reviewed the risk assessment and Covid policy and now have an Outbreak management plan. These will all be on the website in September for you to view.

The procedures for September have been written in line with the document that comes from the government for schools advice.

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/999689/Schools\\_guidance\\_Step\\_4\\_update\\_FINAL.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/999689/Schools_guidance_Step_4_update_FINAL.pdf)

There is also some guidance for parents about schools. This can be found below.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak/step-4-update-what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges>

## Plans for September

Drop off and pick up times will no longer be staggered. We will revert back to our previous timings.

Year Groups	Drop off	Pick up
Pre school	9am	12pm
Aspen	9am	3pm
Ash am	8.40am	11.40am
Ash pm	12.20pm	3.20pm
Year R, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	Doors open 8.45 – 8.55am	3.10pm

## Masks

From Step 4, face coverings will no longer be advised for pupils, staff and visitors either in classrooms or in communal areas or at drop off or pick up. Although staff and parents may wear them if they wish. Staff may ask parents or visitors to wear them in a meeting if people need to be in close contact due to lack of space. We will provide masks at this time. We



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can still conduct meetings via zoom if required. Please be mindful that some staff and parents are still concerned about the spread of the virus and so may ask people to wear masks when talking to them. We will have masks available at this point. Some staff and parents may choose to still wear masks.

## One way system

The schools one way system will no longer be in place. You will be able to enter and exit through all entrances / exits if the school.

## Bubbles

From September there will no longer be the need for bubbles. Children will be allowed to mix more freely with other year groups. Staggered playtimes and lunchtimes will go back to how they were before. We will still be staggering our lunchtimes as we have found that with less children on the playground there have been less incidents.

## Lunchtimes

Year Group	Timings	Location
Aspen	12.00 – 1.00	Aspen class and then Nursery Garden
Reception	12.00 – 1.00	Small hall and Reception Garden
Yr 1 and 2	12.00 – 1.00	Large Hall and KS1 playground
Yr 3 and 4	12.00 – 1.00	Large Hall and KS2 playground
Year 5 and 6	12.30 – 1.30	Large Hall and KS2 playground

## Assemblies

Assemblies and larger group activities will be allowed and more children will be allowed to eat together in the hall.

As a school we have enjoyed some zoom assemblies and so some of these will continue. We will also be reducing the number of children in the hall so assembly groups will be made smaller to begin with.

## Social distancing

In Step 4, the government have said that social distancing is no longer a requirement. Although please be aware of staff and other parents' personal space. Some staff and parents will still be feeling anxious about the virus and we ask that you respect



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this. Guidance from PHE is that the virus has not gone away and keeping apart from other people will continue to help us reduce the chances of an outbreak in the school.

## Isolation

From 16 August 2021, children under the age of 18 years old will no longer be required to self-isolate if they are contacted by NHS Test and Trace as a close contact of a positive COVID-19 case. Instead, children (their parents) will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace, informed they have been in close contact with a positive case and advised to take a PCR test. We would encourage all individuals to take a PCR test if advised to do so. We will need to sent copies of the PCR test results.

If a child has a positive test result, parents will be contacted and asked a series of questions by the track and trace service. This will help decide who will be a close contact, although this is now very unlikely to be a whole class.

In some unusual cases schools may be contacted to help with track and trace and we will help with this.

We will still inform you of positive cases although the actions will now come from NHS track and trace.

Positive lateral flow tests will still need to be confirmed by a PCR test.

Remote education will start for anyone that tested positive if they are well enough still to work. This will continue to work in the same way that we currently are. We will provide work for children whilst they are off getting a PCR test and waiting for results.

Parents can contact the school if they need any help with technology.

## Procedures that will stay the same.

Hand washing / sanitising – children will still be handwashing and sanitising their hands throughout the day. We would ask that all visitors / parents that come inside the school sanitise their hands on arrival.

Ventilation – rooms will still be well ventilated. This will reduce the spread of the virus. in colder months children may need to wear more clothes and we will covid blast the rooms at regular periods throughout the day.

Catch it, bin in – for tissues. Children will continue to be asked to wipe their noises and put the tissues in bins.



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Isolation space – Children will still be sent home if they are showing any of the COVID symptoms. They will be brought to the office and sat in the isolation space whilst we phone you and ask you to come and pick up your child. You will be asked to take them for the PCR test. Tests results will need to be sent to the office for your child to return. All positive cases will still need to isolate for 10 days.

In some circumstances staff may still wear PPE. This may be for suspected cases or for first aid.

Parents are being asked to continue to complete lateral flow tests during the summer holidays and into September. You can [collect packs of self-tests from libraries and pharmacies](#). Alternatively, you can [order self-tests online](#). They should record their results by following the instructions in the test kit.

## **If you suspect your child has coronavirus or has a positive test**

Do not send your child to their nursery, childminder, school, if:

- they are showing one or more [coronavirus \(COVID-19\) symptoms](#)
- they have had a positive test result
- there are other reasons requiring them to stay at home, for example, they are [required to quarantine](#)

You should follow public health advice on [when to self-isolate and what to do](#).

If you insist on your child attending nursery, school, or college when they have symptoms, we can take the decision to refuse your child if, in our reasonable judgement, it is necessary to protect other pupils and staff from possible infection with COVID-19. Our decision would need to be carefully considered in light of all the circumstances and current public health advice.

## **Assessments in primary schools**

The government are planning for a full programme of primary assessments to take place in the 2021 to 2022 academic year. This will include the introduction of the statutory Reception Baseline Assessment and Multiplication Tables Check. Phonics tests for Year 2 and 1 will take place. SATs will take place for Year 2 and Year 6 children.

## **Mental health and wellbeing**

Some children and young people may be experiencing feelings of anxiety, stress or low mood as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. As a school we have been working with



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individuals and classes to support children throughout the year. This will continue in September.

Support for children and parents – How can parents help?

Encourage your child to talk to you or their teacher if they are feeling anxious or stressed.

Online resources to help you support your child with mental health and wellbeing, include:

- [MindEd](#) - a free educational resource on children and young people's mental health
- [Every Mind Matters](#) - an online tool and email journey to support everyone in taking action to look after their mental health and wellbeing
- [Bereavement UK](#) and the [Childhood Bereavement Network](#) - information and resources to support bereaved pupils, schools and staff
- the [DfE blog](#) - includes [mental health resources](#) for children, parents, carers and school staff

Public Health England's (PHE) [advice and guidance for parents and professionals on supporting children and young people's mental health and wellbeing](#) includes actions you can take to support your child and emphasises the importance of taking 60 minutes of daily physical activity. Youth Sport Trust and [Sport England](#) have advice and support on helping children and young people stay physically active.

NHS mental health services remain open and have digital tools to connect with people and provide ongoing support. Please use your local children and young people's mental health service when needed.

## Education Support.

We will be continuing to support children next year to catch up on any missed learning.

The department has launched an [information site](#) for parents, to support children of all age ranges and abilities catch up on lost learning from the pandemic. The site features advice and support for parents of children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), as well as programmes, resources and activities for children and young people this summer.

We have been asked to share this with you.

Further information can be found on the [education catch-up for your child](#) homepage.

## Outbreak Management Plan

If there is an outbreak in our nursery or school or we are in an enhanced response area, we might be advised that it is necessary to do some or all of the following. Depending



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on where the outbreak is will depend on whether the plans are whole school or just to set year groups.

- reintroduce bubbles or to keep groups apart for a temporary period to reduce mixing between groups.
- face coverings should temporarily be worn in communal areas or classrooms (by pupils, staff and visitors, unless exempt).
- Reintroduce the staggered drop off and pick up times.
- Reintroduce the one way system around the school.
- Reintroduce using paper towels in the bathrooms.
- Reduce parents and visitors inside the building.
- Cancel large gatherings – eg assemblies, school plays or sports days for parents.
- Increase lateral flow testing for staff.
- Increase handwashing, cleaning and ventilation

We will advise you if any of these precautions need to be put into place and for which year groups. If an outbreak happens we may not need to reintroduce all elements but we will follow the advice from Public Health England.

We hope that you continue to see that we are continuing to be following government guidance and we will let you know if this advice changes over the summer holidays.

We hope that you keep safe and well and we look forward to seeing you in September.

Mrs Peden

