

9th June 2020

Dear Parents,

I hope that this communication finds you safe and well and that both you and your family enjoyed a good half term. I also hope that whether you are accessing our remote learning or back at school, this first week back has been a good first week.

Thank you very much for all that you are continuing to do to work with us in ensuring that we are doing our very best for all the children. I am very grateful to the whole team for their continued hard work with videos, communication, reports and now working with the new protocols in place. I am very aware of those children who cannot be in school and know that this must be very challenging for you all.

It has been amazing to see more children on site over the last week and to hear more children's voices and laughter again in school feels wonderful. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to helping in returning the children into school in as positive way as is possible. I appreciate that this has not been easy and that there has been some compromise from families along with anxiety for many to overcome around this. Again, a big thank you to everyone who has supported this structured start.

We have not yet received guidance from the UK Government on year two, and our current planning assumption is, regrettably, that they will not return to school until September.

However, we will of course inform you if the situation changes and we will continue to do all that we can to maintain the integrity of all that we usually do during the second half of the summer term. This is particularly important for our children in their final few weeks of the Pre-Prep School.

Some of you may have read in the press stories about some Independent schools whose future may be in doubt. Our Governing body continues to communicate that Taunton school is in a strong position. This is thanks to the tremendous team effort made by our whole school community.

Our pupil numbers throughout TPPS, for September remain strong and I can confirm that our Teachers in TPPS will remain in their current year groups.

We will also continue to support the children's transitions through activities and Year two should be receiving some communication from TPS over the next day or so around arrangements for this transition.

We also hope to have the arrangements for a virtual sports event and a virtual end of year celebration to you, as soon as more of the details are finalised.

Our hope is that, in September, we will be able to return to a more normal TPPS. However, we are planning for all eventualities and continue to look at our provision and how we implement further controls to reduce the risk of infection. These plans include:

- 1) a separate health centre area which will be used to provide care with complete separation between COVID-19 and non COVID-19 patients. We are also investigating whether this will be allowed to provide quick and accurate testing procedures;
- 2) continued daily temperature testing;
- 3) the wearing of face coverings for members of the community who wish to do so;
- 4) enhanced hygiene and cleaning protocols across the school;
- 5) additional support for vulnerable members of our community;
- 6) physical distancing measures - which will include the ability to teach lessons in the classroom and online simultaneously.

Cases of COVID-19 are on the decline in the UK and the South West has had relatively few cases. Our hope is that we will be able to return in September with a level of normality but we are of course planning for other scenarios as a whole school. We will, of course, provide you with more specific details as the situation evolves.

We looking forward to welcoming all of our children and babies back to TPPS as soon as we are able to. Please do get in touch if there is anything you wish to ask.

With best wishes,

Louise

Louise Leah