

23rd March 2020

To all parents in TPS, TPPS and Nursery

Dear Parents

We hope that you and your families are keeping safe and well.

We are writing to you this afternoon in response to the guidance produced by the government last Friday in relation to children whose parents are critical to the Covid-19 response. This guidance is at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

Please note the following points

- We are fully committed to caring for children of 'critical workers' who fall within the government definitions and we want to fulfil the duty which we all have towards stopping the spread of the virus.
- However, the government has said that it is essential that the number of children who need to be in schools is as low as possible.
- You will, I am sure, appreciate how challenging it will be to organise the provision in schools in a way which meets the necessary requirements of social distancing (e.g. will your child be able to avoid coming within 2 metres of another child or member of staff in the playground or in the classroom?)
- Sending your child into school represents a risk both to him/her, to your family, to the other pupils and their families, and to the members of staff and their families. Staff will be volunteering to look after the children, and we want to put as few of them as possible at risk.
- All parents should be doing everything they can to ensure children are not mixing socially in a way which can continue to spread the virus. Children should be observing the same social distancing principles as adults. All parents may be interested in reading the BBC article entitled 'Should you let your children play with other children?' at <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-us-canada-51938537>
- If it is at all possible for parents to organise care for their children in their own homes, they should do this. Please see the flow diagram at the foot of this letter. **We are being advised to accept only those very few children for whom both parents are 'critical workers', and who cannot be kept safe at home.**

If, having read the above, you believe that you will need to send your child into school, please could you fill out the questionnaire linked here.

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=3KEwsxwc4EedI4tJ41RQV11cIsXHt_9EppFUoifG0rJUOEINRktURzdSUVJaRUVTN1hLQ1M4U0dHQi4u

If you have siblings in our Senior School, please refer to similar communication which you will be receiving from Mr Burnett.

Please submit your questionnaire response by 7.00pm on Wednesday 25th March. We will then assess all the responses and write to parents with an update on the school's plans. Please note that we cannot at the moment know what those plans will be. It will depend on the responses which we receive, on our capability to deliver a safe provision, and on any changes to government advice which may occur in the next few days.



HEADMASTER: Andrew Edwards BA Hons

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One of the great strengths of the Taunton School community is that the School and its families support each other and work together in the face of challenges and please do contact us if there is anything we can do to support you during this time ahead.

With our best wishes,

Yours sincerely,



Andrew Edwards
TPS Headmaster



Louise Leah
Head of TPPS and Nursery

