

4<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parents

I hope that you and your family have enjoyed a restful Christmas break.

### **Drop-off & Collection**

With our local area currently placed in Tier 4, we ask that parents drop off/collect pupils at their respective drop off zones (map attached). Please maintain social distancing from other parents and make your way back to your vehicle as soon as possible.

### **Warm Clothes**

As part of our Covid protocols, we will be keeping windows and doors open to allow fresh air to circulate within buildings. We will also be encouraging pupils to spend time outside during break times. We would therefore be grateful if all pupils could bring a school coat, hat and gloves to school.

### **Face Coverings & Sanitiser**

Please ensure your son/daughter **has a face covering with them at all times (and a spare in their pencil case)**. This is applicable to pupils in all year groups as pupils in Years 3 to 6 are required to wear masks for certain activities. Pupils must also bring a small bottle of sanitiser which they can keep with them during the day. A reminder from Mr Ashmore that aprons as well as masks are required for DT lessons.

### **Clubs & Activities**

Please note Clubs and Activities for pupils in Years 3 to 6 will begin on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> January and on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> January for pupils in Years 7&8.

### **PE & Games Lessons** – A message from Mr Winsor

PE and Games lessons will continue as near to normal as possible for the upcoming term. Pupils should come to school in full tracksuits (with PE polo shirts) on the days they have a PE, games or an after school sports club. If they do not have any sport (or are off games), they should come to school in their full school uniform. To maintain hygiene levels, we ask that pupils bring in a change of socks and their games tops to wear during their PE and games lessons. Please note skins are also permitted. Boys will need their hockey equipment (stick, mouth guard, shin pads) and girls will need their netball equipment (skorts, trainers) for games lessons. We are still unsure of the position regarding sports fixtures and will be guided by government and sporting governing bodies. A large number of schools have already made the decision not to play competitive matches this half term. Parents are encouraged to keep checking our school sports website for regular updates.

### **Child Protection**

It is important to reiterate periodically who the lead staff members are in relation to child protection concerns. At Taunton School we are all committed to safeguarding children and we take our responsibility very seriously, undergoing regular training and refresher courses. Mr Ed Burnett is the Whole School Designated Safeguarding Lead, Mrs Joanna Hall-Tomkin is the Child Protection Officer for the Prep School and Mrs Louise Leah fulfils that role for the Pre-Prep and Nursery.

**Labelled Clothing**

We would be grateful if you could please check that all uniform and kit is clearly labelled prior to the beginning of term.

**Pupils in Year 7&8 – Remote Learning**

Our Form Tutors will be making contact with their tutees over the course of Monday and Tuesday via Teams. Can I please ask that pupils login to check they are able to access their various class/form Teams ready for the start of term on Wednesday morning. The start of the day on Wednesday will begin with a double form period and Form Tutors will take time to assist with any access issues. An updated copy of our Digital Learning Guide will be sent to all parents tomorrow and should assist with this process.

Form Tutors will contact parents of pupils who are joining the school this term either today or tomorrow. They will provide login details for your son/daughter and will be able to help with any issues that may arise.

**Year 7&8 – Critical Worker Pupils**

A letter confirming details of our Critical Worker provision will be sent shortly to parents of pupils who have completed the recent questionnaire.

With best wishes,



Mr Chris Coleman  
**Deputy Headmaster**