

1 April 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

The Coronavirus pandemic is impacting the lives of everyone. There is understandably a lot of anxiety and uncertainty in the world, but I think it is a credit to our TAMAT schools, that staff have gone out of their way to reassure children, showing their usual love and care, trying to retain as much normality as possible whilst at the same time trying to keep families informed when the speed of change and reliance of information has made the job very difficult at times.

The Headteachers in our 5 schools have worked closely together in the planning and implementation of this emergency action and meet daily via Microsoft Teams to ensure that all our schools share the best practice. We really have seen that we are stronger together as we have supported one another to do the best for our families.

As we come to the end of the first two weeks of school closure, I'm sure you will join me in thanking all our school staff for serving our communities so well in difficult circumstances, by providing home learning and staying open for the children of keyworkers and the vulnerable. Staff are stepping up to the challenge of coming in, despite the risks it puts to themselves and their own families. So, I must reiterate Government advice to stay at home, self-isolate and only use this childcare facility if it is really necessary – the more people you mix with, the more risk you put on those staff and children who are working in our schools.

Thank you for your continued support of our schools and good luck to you all, as you support your children at home. Please remember that the school learning is flexible enough to suit your home circumstances and should not add extra stress to your lives. Try to build structure into your day, as children do respond well to routine. Mix up the day if you can, to include family time where you do something together e.g. play a board game, exercise or just play. Children can help with chores at home and should also appreciate that parents and carers have jobs to do too where they need to get on undisturbed and children need to be independent. This is likely to be a very challenging time for parents as jobs may be at risk, income reduced and relationships tested – please be proactive and make use of online help and support before the stress gets too great. Your well-being is important. Please note our schools will not be setting home learning over the holiday, so that this can be a much needed break for everyone. However, TAMAT schools have come together so we can provide centralised Easter childcare at Connaught Junior School for the children of our keyworkers who have expressed a need for this additional support.

Please remember that at this time when children may have greater access to the Internet, it is even more important to be vigilant in ensuring your children are kept safe online. There is a lot of support available and below are some useful links to help parents and carers:

- [Thinkyouknow](#) (advice from the National Crime Agency to stay safe online)
- [Internet matters](#) (support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online)
- [Parent info](#) (support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online)
- [LGfL](#) (support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online)
- [Net-aware](#) (support for parents and careers from the NSPCC)

I hope you can use the opportunity of home-isolation to think of others, even if you can't see people physically; a letter, a phone call, an e-mail, a gift of a meal on someone's door step, or a daily act of kindness at home to each other will ensure we all come out of this as better people. Thank you for your continued support.

I wish you well at this very difficult time, financially, in health, in work and with your families.

Yours sincerely

Mr J Hills

TAMAT CEO

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Registered Office: Fredericks House, 39 Guildford Road, Lightwater GU18 5SA