



# Twynham Learning

Chief Executive Officer: Mr Gareth Morris BA (Hons), PGCE, NPQH, M(Ed)

Chair of Trustees: Mr Douglas Croucher

20<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parents

I am writing to offer my thanks to the support many of you have provided during this difficult period and to reassure you that as a Trust we are strenuously working in the background on our contingency planning. I recognise that for some of you there may be extreme frustration that we are not offering provision from Monday. However, given the absence of advanced consultation and communication with schools around what should be offered, we have to work carefully through the details to ensure that a professional approach is taken. Our provision must be safe and viable for the long term; recognising the current precarious staffing situation across the sector - we want to ensure that what we offer is sustainable because arrangements are likely to be in effect for months rather than weeks.

Our initial priority has been to ensure that the nearly 4000 children in our care are managed effectively to ensure clarity as the majority of them head towards an extended period of distance learning. We have had to address potential social isolation and lack of routine; coaching them about how we will continue their education moving forward in the future. This is and will remain our primary goal alongside keeping our children safe, including how we ensure that our statutory duty for providing free school meals (FSM) is met.

We have been planning for a period of school closure for several weeks and are well-advanced in our preparations. However, the expectations around staying open have more recently emerged and plans are therefore less complete. That said, we have moved to the next stage of contingency planning which is as follows:

Date:	Action:
Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> and Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> March	<b>Distance Learning:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>School staff to undertake further planning and preparation around delivering a modified curriculum to students as a distance learning model</li> </ul>
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> - Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> March	<b>In-School Priority Additional Provision (PAP):</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Planning how we can put in place PAP which is safe, appropriately staffed, structured and offer places meeting the published government criteria.</li> <li>Parents will be contacted by the individual schools to give them notification of which PAP Hub they will attend and the start date. (With the correct assessments in place, this will be ideally from Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March onwards, subject to capacity)</li> <li>Negotiations with Harrisons Catering have now been secured and they will be continuing services for all children attending the PAP alongside delivering Free school Meals for identified children.</li> </ul>
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> March- 3 <sup>rd</sup> April	<b>Easter Holiday Club:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Negotiations for securing a 1 week Easter Holiday club for designated Key Worker children based around sport, arts / crafts, music etc.</li> <li>Planning for staffing, timetabling, food arrangements and extending invitations to qualifying families.</li> </ul>

We have received nearly 500 requests for key worker PAP alongside our existing commitment to students who have additional vulnerability and we are now working through these requests and are confident that within our planning framework we can accommodate them across our campuses.

Our contingency planning is based around Hubs within the Trust managing a joint provision that ideally will be able to continue longer-term as the impact of COVID-19 will only deepen from where it is now. This will be operational from the first day after Easter for all qualifying families under the government criteria. As you would imagine, this is not within our normal business operation and requires extensive risk analysis (particularly if the Local Authority intend to use such hubs for the wider school communities as they struggle to maintain provision at a smaller scale).

However, we stand by the Government advice shared this morning that parents should keep their children at home wherever possible and that they've asked schools to remain open only for those children who absolutely need to attend.

In terms of the ongoing challenge in managing a process of lock-down where we are most definitely being asked to do the opposite, we absolutely have to ensure that we maintain not just a high level of hygiene awareness but also meet the same high expectations in terms of keeping children safe.

As a family of schools within Twynham Learning we are planning for what clearly is going to be a protracted period, potentially onwards to September, and we are doing our utmost to ensure that we are able to continue to deliver what we have promised and implemented. We are also frontline workers who are encountering significant pressures around health and capacity.

Schools will be communicating to all parents their arrangements for this transition period and they will be providing the detail around support and expectations. They will pick up in particular the difficult task of continuing to offer a well thought-out, appropriate distance-learning curriculum to ensure that all of our students are ready to resume their educational journey as and when opportunity presents.

Yours sincerely



**Gareth Morris**  
**Chief Executive Officer, Twynham Learning**