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16th December 2022

Dear Parents,

As we come to the end of the autumn term, I wanted to take the opportunity to wish you all Merry Christmas. It has been a delight to have welcomed new children and new staff into our Trust as well as seeing talented staff moving between our five schools. The first term is always a tough one after the summer holidays as everyone gets back into good learning habits as well as getting to know new people and new routines.

We also recognise that it has been a challenging year for many of our families and staff with the increase in the cost of living and with worrying fuel bills – please do contact your child’s school if struggling as we can signpost you to local support. Covid hasn’t gone away completely, fortunately with most children the symptoms have been mild, but we have had some staff who have been quite poorly. Naturally with the recent increase nationally in Strep A and Scarlet Fever cases, it has brought additional anxieties and it is important that we are all vigilant in taking guidance from GPs or by ringing NHS 111 if concerned about symptoms. Staff in schools are reinforcing good hygiene habits with easy access to hand gel and hand washing.

All TAMAT schools marked the passing of Queen Elizabeth II back in September and it was a good opportunity to reflect on the qualities she showed in service and loyalty that we can all aim to demonstrate in our own lives. As we face the cold temperatures and icy roads, the memories of a warm September start to term seem a long time ago! Nevertheless, so many exciting things have been going on in our schools that have made it a very successful term from sporting events to educational visits, visitors to inspire and workshops/parent evenings to help inform. Thank you for your continued support.

It has been lovely to see the new Reception children settle so well in our infant schools and our new Year 3 pupils joining our junior schools have made great starts too. I hope all new parents to TAMAT feel welcome. We have had a few Ukrainian families joining our schools which has been a delight to be able to be of assistance but also the opportunity has enriched our school communities. At the start of term our new TAMAT Family Support Worker joined the team. Nadine Verderame comes with a wealth of expertise and our schools are looking forward to this additional resource to be able to help families beyond the school gates. In January we will be opening nursery provision at Crawley Ridge Infant school which is very exciting.

All TAMAT staff came together for INSET training back in November and we are looking forward to another training session in February when we will be focusing on children as leaders and how we can support the well-being of everyone in school. The executive team of heads meet fortnightly to share best practice and are the driving force behind school improvement in TAMAT. School staff meet regularly to support each other through different networks and our school governors also work termly

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with trustees across the five schools through our portfolio system looking at: Health & Safety, safeguarding, achievement, curriculum, finance and community. As we continue to grow as a multi-academy trust of five schools, we definitely feel stronger together.

If you are interested or know anyone looking to work in education, we have some exciting opportunities to work in our trust. We have several vacancies which may offer hours that suit your family life, working nearby, making a difference to children and with the opportunity to learn new skills. Please follow the links below for more information:

Crawley Ridge Junior School:

Teaching Assistant: <https://www.eteach.com/job/teaching-assistant-1294815>

Playworker: <https://www.eteach.com/job/play-worker-1294329>

Holy Trinity CofE Primary School:

Learning Support Assistant: <https://www.eteach.com/job/learning-support-assistant-1292499>

Connaught Junior School:

Caretaker: <https://www.eteach.com/job/school-caretaker-1287855>

As we look to the new year, I would like to wish you all a safe and happy Christmas and schools look forward to welcoming you back in the New Year.

Best wishes

Mr Jon Hills  
CEO TAMAT