

Dear Parents,

I am sure you watched Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong's speech to the nation on Friday. Singapore is taking strong proactive measures to slow the rate of Coronavirus transmission locally, including closing non-essential workplaces with work from home and schools going fully online until 4 May 2020.

These are all sensible measures which if we do our part and follow, will hopefully mean that in a month's time daily Coronavirus cases drop back to a few a day instead of 70-100 plus cases a day. As guests, permanent residents and citizens of Singapore, the GESS community must fully support the government's measures.

The next four weeks will be challenging. It is a further adjustment to our daily lives and we will also learn some new skills. Our children will continue to progress, to develop and to learn. Our Educators are prepared for online, home-based learning and teaching. Our Administrative staff will continue to serve and support you. The last two months have been an outstanding whole school, whole community collaboration. I have full confidence that our community and colleagues will make the next month successful too.

## Home learning

GESS will commence home learning on Monday 13 April until 4 May 2020. Our Academic team will contact parents and students by Tuesday, 7 April 2020 with further instructions.

We have practised online learning, however, by no means does this mean it will be perfect from day one. We will learn, we will listen to our community and we will perfect home learning. I seek your understanding and patience. Constructively working together is key to ensuring the next month is successful.

## Campus entry

As per the Singapore regulations, our campus will be closed from Tuesday, 7 April 2020. No entry will be allowed for GESS colleagues, parents, students or visitors. Please do not try to enter the campus.

Students were advised previously before the school holiday that they must bring home all their belongings. If your child was absent or has forgotten an item, you must come to the campus today, **Monday, 6 April 2020 before 16:00**. The campus will close after that.

## Phone lines

Our GESS Colleagues will be working from home from Monday 6 April 2020.

Therefore, please contact the school by email as we are currently working on a solution for phone lines and also a Live Chat function to support our community.

## Support

On top of our feelings of worry and concerns for our families, we now have to adjust our lives to working from home and studying from home. This will be challenging and please know that you are not alone. Reach out to friends and family, if you need help. Our GESS Counsellors have also prepared materials, resources and help on our [Parent Portal update site](#).

## GESS Emergency team

Even though the school is on home-learning, it is important that you inform the GESS Emergency team if a member of your household is placed on a Stay Home Notice (SHN) or Quarantine Order (QO). Please email [covid19@gess.sg](mailto:covid19@gess.sg).

If any member of your family feels unwell and needs to see a doctor, you can use this website to find a clinic. [Flu Go Where](#)

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I am sure that our great community will continue to offer its support. We have to work together, we have to follow government rules and we have to physically distance ourselves for the next month. Our community will emerge from the next month of physical and social distancing stronger and ready to finish the semester successfully. Rest assured that I will be closely monitoring our school's home learning efforts.

Please be safe, please follow the government's rules and please look after your family's health.

Christof Martin

GESS Principal



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