

Dear Parents,

Due to the changing situation and increase in local transmissions of Coronavirus infections, I would like to share with you what the School is preparing to ensure that our children's studies can continue unaffected.

This is a preventative and proactive measure. As of today, there have been no suspected cases within the GESS community that we are aware of and no Singapore government instructions to close schools.

The Singapore government just changed the DORSCON level to orange. How is GESS reacting to this?

GESS has its own five-level action matrix plan for the Coronavirus which is school specific. The DORSCON level matrix is a whole country matrix plan. We are also in regular contact with other international schools in Singapore.

From the beginning of the Coronavirus outbreak GESS has been introduced temperature screening and hand sanitising as well as extra cleaning measures. On Wednesday, 5 February 2020, GESS increased its stage level to stage 3: Enhanced. This already includes the measures suggested under DORSCON Orange level, such as cancelling large events, non-essential meetings and school trips.

Home learning

The Pedagogical Leadership team and the EdTech team have been meeting regularly during the first week back to discuss how to implement home learning and support our students remotely, in case of a school closure.

Primary School and Secondary School

Being a school that embraces technology in the classroom we are in the lucky position that our students and technology are ready for home based online learning. Teachers will mainly rely on the apps and materials students are already familiar with.

Our teachers are being trained on our online learning tools and platform and will practise on Wednesday. Many of these tools are already used on a regular basis. Our students will be further trained on how to use the online learning tools and platform. This will help make sure we are all prepared. We will also make sure parents are updated and that instructions are clear.

Teachers will be your child's main point of contact for remote learning.

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Primary homeroom teachers and secondary subject teachers will advise their students which textbooks and workbooks they should be prepared to bring home for continued learning in case of school closure. Secondary students must bring their laptops home at the end of each day.

Pre-school

Pre-school follows an inquiry and play-based curriculum and also given the young age of our Pre-school students, it is not possible to teach lessons online. The Pre-school Pedagogical Leadership team and teachers are preparing information and advice for parents to continue learning at home.

Please remember these are all precautionary measures and plans, just in case the school has to close. Current guidance from the Government of Singapore and the Ministry of Education is that schools remain open with enhanced measures which GESS has already implemented and exceeded.

Thank you for your continued support,

Christof Martin

Principal



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