



MEONCROSS SCHOOL

Headmaster: Mr Mark Cripps BSc (Hons), MA Ed

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18 March 2020

Dear Parents,

As you will be aware, the Government has this afternoon announced the closure of all schools in England from the end of Friday 20th March due to the Coronavirus pandemic. Our school premises will continue as normal tomorrow and Friday. The Easter term will still end on Tuesday, 31st March and we are planning on the summer term commencing as previously advised on Wednesday, 22nd April, whether physically at school or virtually.

We are exploring the means by which we could offer supervised care for the children of key workers. Please would you inform us tomorrow, Thursday 19th March, by emailing our Business Manager angie.isaac@meoncross.co.uk, if you feel you may fall into this category.

I appreciate this news is unsettling but want to reassure you of the steps we are taking to provide support for our students and parents during the closure. As you know, we've been working closely with our Cognita colleagues in Asia, where some countries have had mandatory school closures for many weeks and also more recently in Spain and Switzerland. Our plan for Meoncross is informed by the practice that our international schools have put in place and we are confident we have an effective strategy for our children to continue learning. We have recently refreshed the digital technology in our school and conducted training in its use which means our teaching staff are well equipped to make the transition to digital learning for your child.

We will send out the specific details about our online learning strategy, which will initially be delivered via school's VLE. Clearly this will be a new way of working and learning for us all and we expect to adapt the programme as we go. As confirmed in the Education Secretary's briefing there will be no public exams held this year. We appreciate the enormity of this announcement and will communicate further with affected parents and pupils on this shortly as more precise information becomes available.

COGNITA

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We appreciate that there will be an impact on parents and our plan includes providing as much advice as possible. With that in mind, our Group Wellbeing Director Beth Kerr has prepared the attached 'Be Well Tips' for parents on supporting your children during a school closure.

Thank you in advance for your support at this challenging time. Our teachers have already made preparations for the possibility of a closure. All our efforts are concentrated on two priorities: maintaining the wellbeing of our children and staff; and ensuring the continuity of their education in the days or weeks to come. I would personally like to thank all the staff at Meoncross including teaching, administration and support staff for their excellent efforts over the last few but very challenging weeks.

Teachers will still be contactable by email and the school office will continue to monitor any enquiries. Please be assured that we will endeavour to maintain close communication with you throughout the closure and will update as soon as we have more information. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to email me on headspa@meoncross.co.uk.

Kind regards,



Mark Cripps
Headmaster

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