

St. Clare's School
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18th March 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian

As you will be aware, the Government has this afternoon announced the closure of all schools in England and Wales 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 Friday 3rd April and we are planning on summer term commencing as previously advised on Monday, 20th 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 let me know tomorrow Thursday, 19th March if you feel you may fall into this category and we will confirm details shortly. Please email Nicola.mcginley@cognita.com

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 have 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 St. Clare's is informed by the practice they 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.

Remote learning will start next Monday, 23rd March, lasting 5 days and will continue until Friday, 27th March. During this time pupils in Nursery to Year 6 will work on their home learning packs sent out last Friday, 13th March. Pupils throughout the Senior School will work on Firefly.

As of Monday, 30th March online learning will start. Pupils in Nursery up to and including Year 3 will use the online platform Seesaw. Your child's class teacher will have provided you with more information on Seesaw and your login details today. The information was given out to the children in school and emailed to those absent. If you have not received these details, please contact your class teacher tomorrow.

Pupils in Years 4 – 6 in the Prep School and throughout the Senior School will use Microsoft Teams as their online platform. Pupils received training on this today and there will be further training tomorrow.

The school's 'Remote and Online Learning Protocol' sent out yesterday contains further details.

I completely understand that this will be a new way of working and learning for everyone and it can be adapted accordingly as we progress.

As stated above, we have two weeks Easter holidays, weeks commencing 6th and 13th April. This means that there will be one week of online learning before the Easter break. This will provide an excellent opportunity for pupils to become accustomed to this new way of learning, before using it again after the Easter holidays should the school still be closed.

We appreciate the enormity of the Education Minister's announcement today stating there will be no public exams held this year. Please be assured that we will communicate further with affected parents and pupils on this shortly as more exact information becomes available.

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

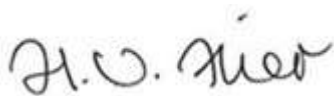
Thank you in advance for your support at this challenging time. Our teachers have been preparing well for the possibility of a closure. All our efforts are concentrated on two priorities: maintaining the wellbeing of our children and staff and ensuring the continuity of their education in the days or weeks to come. I would like to personally thank all the staff at St. Clare's. Their resilience, hard work and support has been incredible and I am extremely grateful to each and every one of them.

All teachers will be contactable either through their school email address or the online platforms. There will be a complete list of staff emails on the website. We will continue to communicate closely with you throughout the closure and will update you as soon as we have more information.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued support. I am extremely fortunate to be Headteacher of a school with such a strong community. I send my very best wishes to you and all your families and look forward to opening the doors of St. Clare's and welcoming you and your children back.

Please do not hesitate to contact me personally at helen.hier@cognita.com if you have any further questions.

Kind regards



Helen Hier
Headteacher