

16th March 2020

Dear Parents,

We continue to follow Government and Cognita advice following the Cobra meeting on Friday. At Glenesk, we are doing everything we can to keep school life as normal as we can for your children. For those of you who have decided to keep your children at home thank you for your messages and we understand and respect your decision.

The current plan

Some parents have been in touch in recent days to ask about a potential school closure – we are keen to maintain frequent and open communication with you in these unprecedented times.

While the UK has moved into the ‘Delay’ phase of its Coronavirus Action Plan, the official government advice for schools remains unchanged. As you know, we are following all Public Health England (PHE), Department for Education and NHS guidance. In addition, we have already introduced some additional measures such as asking parents to temperature check pupils before attending school, self-reporting of families’ travel plans, an increased level of cleaning and an emphasis on hand washing and hygiene in school.

We will continue with this approach while preparing for the possibility that school closures may be introduced at any time.

What would happen if the school closed?

We are actively making plans in case of school closure and developing home learning packs that will be sent home over the next few days. The plan would be that for the first week of school closure, the children would be able to work on these packs from home. If the school should then have to close for an extended period, excluding the Easter holidays, from week 2 onwards we would move to online learning and you will receive instructions as to how to access it.

How can Cognita Help?

- Drawing on experiences overseas

We are fortunate that we are part of the Cognita family of schools and that we can draw upon their experiences, namely in Spain, where they are now successfully delivering remote learning programmes amid mandatory closures.

-Managing the wellbeing of your children

Cognita’s guiding principle is to ensure the safety and wellbeing of our students while managing this challenging situation in a calm and proportionate manner. To that end, our Group Wellbeing Director for Cognita, Beth Kerr, has prepared some helpful tips for parents on protecting the emotional wellbeing of our children at this time. These are attached along with our latest ‘Cognita Be Well Comments’ resource, on the topic of sleep, which was due to be released this month in the ordinary course of events.

Please don’t hesitate to contact me should you have any concerns.

Yours sincerely

Sarah Bradley