

**GLENESK**

**Pre-Prep School & Nursery**

24th March 2020

Dear Parents,

I know that you have had many communications from us in the last week, but these are exceptional times and “communication” is top of my list. I want you to feel confident in the plans we have for your children’s education next term and for you to know that we are here to support you and to deliver it.

The purpose of this communication is to provide information about the way that learning will continue whilst the school building is closed. This is an exceptional time for the whole country. Our team here at Glenesk is committed to ensure that learning continues for all our children.

Our protocol ensures the continuity of teaching outside the classroom and is based on a phased approach to implementing ‘remote’ learning and ‘online’ learning.

1. Remote learning is the period when we provide educational learning tasks, activities and assignments to be undertaken in the more usual way, as they would be at school. The purpose of this period of remote learning is to allow our pupils to get used to this new routine of working from home. We will run the period of remote learning until 27th March 2020
2. Online learning is the period when we will use online platforms to provide teaching and learning using a range of virtual resources. Online learning will begin on 21st April 2020

We will be using “Seesaw” to support our virtual learning programme and I hope by now, you will completed your permission slip and returned it to your child’s class teacher. Alongside this, our teachers will be drawing upon other educational platforms that will help us deliver learning in a stimulating and engaging way for our children. These will include Microsoft Teams and Pobble.

Key contacts

Please be reassured that our usual routes for communication will continue during the period of closure. For general day-to-day queries about your child’s education, please contact your child’s class teacher.

For other queries you may have, I include below a reminder of our key contacts in the school.

Head: Sarah Bradley sarah.bradley@gleneskschool.co.uk

Head’s PA and school Secretary: Judith Khadim Judith.khadim@gleneskschool.co.uk

Bursar: Megha Rajani megha.rajani@gleneskschool.co.uk

Admin and school office: Chantal Ingham chantal.ingham@gleneskschool.co.uk

Although all staff are working remotely, they do have access to your emails as usual, so rest assured that they will respond to your emails during normal working hours.

Our priorities

All our efforts are concentrated on addressing two priorities: on the one hand, the wellbeing of our children, and on the other hand, the continuity of their education. Although our school building is closed, our learning continues and we would welcome your support in reinforcing this vital message to your children.

Wellbeing

We want to ensure that first and foremost, we have arrangements in place to ensure that we support the wellbeing of our children. For this reason, we will have a morning video on Seesaw for the children to respond to.

As always, should you have any concerns about wellbeing please do not hesitate to contact your child’s teacher in the first. Our Designated Safeguarding Leader is Caroline Tod and can always be contacted on caroline.tod@cognita.com with the subject DSL.

Education

In the period of online learning, your child will have a more formal timetable of learning. Teachers have been working on devising these timetables and curriculum plans. We have been learning from our colleagues in Cognita schools in Asia who have been working in this way for over two months. Their insight tells us that the online learning experience will develop over time. We know that in the early days, it is important not to overwhelm children as this is a very different way of working. Specifically, we know that expecting a home-learning timetable to operate in an identical way to a school timetable is neither feasible nor in the best interests of the children, or our educators, as we want to avoid overly long periods of screen time. Teachers will consider this in their planning and, for example, post videos with follow-up learning tasks rather than requiring elongated periods online. One of the benefits of being part of a global family of schools is that we can share and learn from so many people. We have channels in place for our teachers to share practice with thousands of other Cognita teachers for as long as the school closure continues (and beyond).

This is new territory for all of us and we want to work in partnership with you so that learning for our children is productive and enjoyable. It is important to highlight that, with regular supervision and feedback, the majority of our older pupils will be able to follow the personalised virtual learning in a mainly autonomous way. For our younger pupils, we do ask for your initial support as this helps lay the groundwork for a successful experience over the period of closure.

What to expect…

As noted, we are in the early days of this way of working but are confident we can create an exceptional learning experience. We have included below the details that you can expect for pupils of specific ages.

**Seesaw:** Seesaw is the name of the online learning platform we will be using. You will be able to access it at the beginning of next term when it will go “live”.

**The Timetable**: There will be a daily timetable which will include lessons and breaks. We will set this out for you. It may need amending as we go, but we will have an open dialogue with you to ensure it works well for the children.

**The Curriculum**: We will be delivering the same curriculum as we do in school.

In Reception, Year 1 and 2 the class teacher will model the learning as usual, but by video as opposed to in person. Children will then be set a task

In Rising Reception and Nursery the teacher will model the learning/activity but as it is videod you can stop and start it as you wish so that it can be delivered in bite sized chunks

**How will children connect with their teachers:** Children can record a voice message to send to their teacher on Seesaw and they can also send their work and pictures

**How will the teacher provide feedback?:** The teacher can record a voice message to the child or write written comments on Seesaw

Further information

For further tips for parents about how to manage this new context, please see:

<https://www.cognita.com/cognita-be-well/be-well-resources-for-families/>

Finally, please don’t hesitate to let us know if you have any questions or concerns. By working together to support our children, we can ensure their academic progress continues during these unprecedented times.

Look after yourselves and your children,

With my best wishes,

Sarah Bradley

Head of Glenesk School