

GNMS Principal's Letter 2 School Closure

This email is sent on behalf of Principal, Fatima Martin

Dear Parents,

Thank you for your patience as we work through the Ministry of Education's decision for all schools across the UAE to close effective Sunday 8th March through Saturday 4th April in a nationwide effort to mitigate the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

As informed in my email yesterday, this does not mean learning will stop, especially for students who will sit their board exams for 2020-21.

GEMS Education is well prepared and committed to continue to provide your child with a quality education relevant to their grade and curriculum.

I want to reassure you that at GEMS New Millennium School, we have been planning for a continuity plan through remote learning from home for some time now, and we are ready to roll it out.

Here is more information on the operational aspects in wake of the 4 week school closure announcement.

1. Assessments for students of Grades 2 to 8 that were planned for the week starting 8th March:

These assessments in the remaining four subjects will not be conducted at school. They stand cancelled.

Instead, students will be graded on average, for the End of Year Assessment. This means the marks from the past assessments of 2019-20 will be averaged for the End of Year scores, for cancelled subjects only. The reports will be published on 19th March, as stated earlier.

Alongside, we have devised the below set of actions to ensure that students could yet go through the assessments for canceled subjects, at home.

Assessments will be emailed to you by the 8th of March. Administer the assessments at home, under test conditions, with the set time limit, 1 subject-a-day.

The marking scheme will be uploaded on 15th of March, so that the assessments can be marked by you at home. This will give the students the benefit of yet preparing/appearing for the final assessments as was in the original schedule.

We hope this will help our students who have prepared thoroughly for end of year assessments, to at least attempt the question paper, in almost the same rigour.

2. Online Parent Consultation Meetings, to discuss the year's performance:

Homeroom teachers will set up online meetings with parents, 1-2-1, in the 4th week of March, i.e., week starting 22nd March.

Please do be available at the set time as the meeting will be not more than 15 minutes. We request parents to be available at this time and take advantage of the opportunity to discuss your child's achievement during the year 2019-20. Links for these meetings will be emailed to parents by the Homeroom Teacher.

3. Transport for students in Board Examinations for Grades 10 and 12 (batch of 2019-20):

We have been informed by the Federal Committee that no buses will be used for examinations. Parents will have to make arrangements to transport students to and from examination venue.

The board examinations itself will continue as per CBSE timetable at the deputed centre.

4. Live Online Classes for Grades 10 and 12 (batch of 2020-21):

As you would have realized, that pre-testing on use of Microsoft Teams with the batch of 2020-21, Grades 10 and 12, has happened today. Students in these grades have their Office 365 login and seem ready for these classes when they go live starting 8th of March.

The live online classes are scheduled for 8th March to 17th March and 24th and 25th of March.

Please ensure that students are actively involved in these lessons, and online attendance will be taken by the homeroom teachers.

5. Independent Online Learning Grades 1 to 9 (batch of 2020-21):

Teachers will be sending learning tasks on IXL (Math), Literacy Planet (English), Gizmos (Science), Asafeer (Arabic) and relevant task sheets, via email.

Please ensure that students cover this work, as it is aimed for not more than 8 to 10 days. There will be at least 2 weeks which students will have to themselves for other creative pursuits.

6. Information about ordering **uniforms and books** for the new school year will follow in due course as we work with our suppliers to find solutions that best suit families at this time.

7. School will reopen for students in the below manner:

Sunday, 5th April 2020: New Academic Year begins for KG 2 to G 10 and G 12 (Orientation for parents of these grades will be online and will be facilitated in the week starting 29th March. More details to follow)

Monday, 6th April 2020: New Academic Year begins for KG 1 (with orientation to all parents and students)

Tuesday, 6th April 2020: New Academic Year begins for G 11 and Pre-K (with orientation to all parents and students)

A school-specific help desk has been set up for any assistance. You could email them at:

Bernard.k_nms@gemsedu.com or anita.p_nms@gemsedu.com

In addition, there is a GEMS centralised IT hotline (Tel: 045735777). Alternatively, you can email:

parenttechsupport@gemseducation.com

It is important that common sense prevails. As a community it is essential that we listen to official advice and are aware that there is a lot of speculation on social media. All fact-checked information will be provided by the school. It is critical that you follow precautionary measures laid out by the government to help mitigate the risk of the COVID-19 virus spreading. I would like to encourage you to listen to the travel advisories provided by the UAE government and your embassies. Please avoid travelling to high-risk countries. See updated list: <https://www.mofaic.gov.ae/en/Warnings>. If you do so, please provide the relevant information to the school and ensure your child does not come to school for the stipulated quarantine period of 2-weeks upon return.

Please ensure that you have downloaded GEMS Connect to access important information. If you haven't downloaded it already, you can do so via the AppStore or Google Play. Travel declaration forms will be available on the platform.

For admission-related questions please contact our Parent Experience Centre, which is open Sunday-Thursday from 8am to 5pm, on 600-567771.

Finally, we understand that there will be some challenges and I want to assure you that the safety and well-being of our community is of paramount importance. Thank you once again for your trust and support.

Kind Regards,

Fatima Martin
Principal

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