

19 March 2020

Dear Parents,

As you will be aware, the Government yesterday 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 today and Friday. The Easter term will still end on Friday 27th March as planned. However, from Monday 23rd March we will move to remote learning via Firefly. We are planning on the summer term commencing as previously advised on Tuesday 21st 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 us know via parents@hendonprep.co.uk as soon as possible and by 4pm Thursday 19 March if you feel you may fall into this category and we will confirm details shortly.

We appreciate this news may be 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 Hendon Prep is informed by the practice they've 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 equipped to make the transition to digital learning for your child.

The school will be in touch soon with specific details about our online learning programme, which will be delivered via Firefly. Clearly this will be a new way of working and learning for us all and we expect to adapt the programme as we go.

We appreciate 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. Thank you particularly to all of our teachers at Hendon Prep who have been coming into work, teaching their full timetables whilst preparing for this next step; and are committed to ensuring the continued learning and well-being of our children.

Teachers will be contactable through the school office as usual during term time. We will continue to communicate closely with you throughout the closure and will update as soon as we have more information.

Kind regards

Sarah Davies and Tushi Gorasia
Executive Head and Head of School