

24 March 2020



Dear Parents/caregivers

This is a very difficult time for us all. I know there are a lot of different emotions in the community but the most important one for our children is calmness. Your reaction and response is hugely critical to the way your child will cope with the next few weeks. Together we will get through this.

An update on things at GIS:

1. Who can come to school today and tomorrow?

Essential workers children can attend school today and Wednesday only. After that point, GIS is closed and no one is allowed in the school grounds.

2. What are the office hours?

The school office is open today and tomorrow until 3pm to take phone calls and answer any questions you may have. The office staff will be checking emails and phone messages over the next four week period. However as it is officially school holidays from 30/3-14/4, you may not get an immediate response. It is important that our staff have the opportunity to focus on their own families during this time.

3. What changes to dates have been made?

The MOE has changed the dates of the school terms in response to COVID-19. This means the school holidays officially start on 30/3 through to 14/4. Term 2 starts on 15/4 using a Distance Learning Platform.

4. Term 2 Learning

The GIS 'Distance Learning Programme' will commence on Wednesday 15th April. Teachers will be working from home from 15/4 and will be available during normal school hours to assist. Teachers are currently working on the programme to ensure there is a variety of activities and resources that are authentic and meaningful. Further details will be sent out closer to the start of Term 2 once the programme is finalised.

5. No device or Internet?

We are aware that a number of families may not have access to the internet or a device. GIS has a number of devices available for students to borrow during the enforced isolation period.

We also have a number of families that need paper copies of schoolwork for Term 2. This will be available from the school office on Wednesday between 1pm and 3pm. Both the device and paper copies of work will be available at this time. For safety reasons only one person from each family can visit the office to collect and a parent must sign an agreement before the device will be issued.

If you require a device or a paper pack please email your child's teacher as soon as possible.

I will continue to update the community on events and provide as many details as possible closer to the start of Term 2 (15th April).

Take care and be safe

Ngā mihi

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Whitford', is written over a white background.

Mark Whitford
Principal

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