

Thursday, 12 March 2020

Dear Parents,

As you are all aware, the situation regarding Coronavirus {COVID 19} has changed significantly in recent days. The Ministry of Education announced school closures throughout Saudi Arabia on March 8th 2020, which took effect on March 9th, 2020.

Today, it has been confirmed by Mr. Khaled Nuwaishi, from the Ministry of Education, that all schools in The Kingdom must remain closed throughout next week, from Sunday 15th March, 2020 – Thursday 19th March, 2020.

Again, this period of closure is not fully specified. Of course, we will update you as and when we receive further official notifications from the Ministry of Education regarding the following week.

The NIS vacation has been both helpful and a hindrance. It was helpful in that we did not have the issue of closure for students this week, but a hindrance in that many NIS staff were unavailable during the period due to family holidays. However, the NIS senior staff met today to develop a plan for continuing learning for children, whilst at home, plus other required actions as per the MOE. As stated previously, this will take the form of e-learning, via

- **Class Dojo {KG students}**
- **Show My Homework {G1-12 students}**

We are now looking to start this plan as soon as practically possible, hopefully by the middle of next week at the latest. These details will be sent to all parents via the NIS Website, Class Dojo and Show My Homework. We will also send SMS / Dojo messages to remind you of this.

We all hope that the KSA Government is in a position to announce that schools are allowed to return to normal shortly. We would advise you not to contact the school or the Ministry of Education based on rumours that you have heard, or unofficial 'announcements' made via the Internet or social media platforms. We urge you to be continually mindful of the fact that all residents and institutions in The Kingdom still have a legal and moral obligation to support the KSA Government in ensuring that the risks associated with COVID 19 are minimised to the greatest extent possible.

As stated previously, I sincerely hope that every member of the NIS school community remains in good health throughout this extraordinarily challenging period. We look forward to resuming normal operations as and when it is deemed safe and appropriate by the authorities.

Sincerely,

Mr. Tony