



BELMONT GROSVENOR *School*

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12th March 2020

Dear Parents

I am sure all of you are following the media coverage regarding the spread of Coronavirus. We continue to follow the daily guidance and advice that is available from the DfE. Senior Managers are booked into a webinar tomorrow morning, as a follow-on from the decisions made at the COBRA meeting in Parliament, likely to be released in the next few hours. Our Governing Body meets on Monday to discuss our position and possible plans, and your PTA Chairman, Kristin Klauser is invited to attend. Staff have worked with the pupils in school to keep open an ongoing dialogue where we can remind the children about all they can do to keep healthy and safe at this time. Cleaning and disinfecting has increased in frequency and the teachers have willingly added basic wipe-down tasks to their load. Another Upper School assembly took place yesterday where the Q and A session demonstrated the pupils' awareness, knowledge and level-headedness. Of course, like all of us they were very keen to know whether or not we would be shutting the school.

Over the past few weeks, I have been talking through plans with Mrs Shea, Deputy Head, which offer options to manage the next stage of the virus spreading to our school community or a mandate from the government of forced closure. In either case, there will be a plan in place to continue to educate your children. This has happened before at BGS – several years ago due to very heavy snow – and the ParentMail facility proved ideal for teachers to send work to be completed by the children whilst they are at home. In this instance, guidance would come from the teachers and they would be available via email for any questions during this period. If COBRA suggest delaying the closure of schools, then it is possible it may happen during the Easter school holiday period – in which case there will be a cessation of teaching and learning, and we isolate whilst taking our natural leave at the end of the spring term.

It is our absolute hope that there is not an outbreak within our community, however every one of us is girded with the expectation of being affected by this virus. The latest constraints regarding travel, today's local update concerning nursing home isolations and hospital ward restrictions have impacted on many of us already. This is an exceptionally difficult time for everyone.

A more detailed plan of expectations will follow as soon as we are advised on the best 'next steps'. If you are at all concerned that you, your child or close relative is showing signs or symptoms of being unwell, be cautious and follow DfE guidelines which recommend you stay away from school and seek immediate medical advice.

Thank you for your support and understanding, and for all that you are doing to support school; fellow parents, staff and pupils. Please do contact us if you have any questions.

With warmest wishes,

Mrs Sophia Ashworth Jones
Headmistress