



Communication
Team



Friday 27th March 2020

Dear Bangkok Prep Community

During this time of change, the leadership teams at the school are specialising in three key areas: **Communication, Learning and Support** and **Evaluation and Feedback**. These teams are helping us all to successfully transition to new day to day routines and new ways of learning. Though our circumstances are most unusual, our school vision holds true and unites us all:

To be an **outstanding learning community** that is **internationally-minded, inspiring all members to achieve their potential.**

What is happening at Bangkok Prep?

A lot!! Please follow the school's social media accounts and News page on our website, to find out!

How long will school be closed?

The Ministry of Education (MOE) will assess the health situation in Bangkok and Thailand every 14 days and we will wait for the MOE to allow us to open.

We can not wait to have the children back in school but will only do so when permitted by the Ministry of Education and when we are sure it is safe. The school holidays remain unchanged: The last day of Term 2 is Friday 3rd April and the first day of Term 3 is Monday 20th April. We look forward to welcoming the new families joining Bangkok Prep next term.

Enhanced Online Learning Update and Questions?

Please read all about our phased approach to working and learning from home [here](#).

Enhanced Online Learning: We are moving into Phase 3!

After hundreds of hours of LIVE lessons since 24th February 2020, we have refined, developed, improved and learned a lot ourselves. We are ready; are you?

On **Monday 30th March, all Secondary students** will take part in **LIVE sessions** with their form tutors or class teachers.

From Monday 30th March, all Primary children will be taking part in online interactive trial pastoral meetings too! These will establish how best to use Zoom with our Primary aged children. So that,



after the Songkran break, we will have a fantastic pastoral tool to add to our outstanding Phase 2 learning resources!

Please note, that Primary teachers have listened to and greatly appreciated your feedback regarding the impracticalities of all Primary children having their Zoom session at 13.30 each day as originally planned. Therefore, this week class teachers will be in touch directly with parents and children from their class, to communicate when their session will take place. After the Songkran break, you will be issued with an updated Zoom Timetable for your child.

Secondary students **must** use their school Gmail account to access sessions. In Primary, children will have a link shared with them on their Year Group Firefly page.

It has come to our attention that some of our students have been contacting each other outside of scheduled school sessions. As with all use of technology, we would strongly recommend that parents discuss this with their children. **ZOOM accounts** that are registered with a child's school Gmail **should strictly be used with the supervision of our teachers**. Children do not need their own zoom account to be able to access sessions with their teacher, and we would therefore advise that children do not set up their own accounts.

Please use the links below to prepare your children for ZOOM.

Primary students can access our '[student guide](#)' to being in the virtual classroom.

Primary Parents' Information can be found in the [Parents' Extended Closure booklet](#) and all parents will be emailed by their child's class teacher with year group specific information closer to their session time.

Secondary students have all received this '[student guide](#)' to being in the virtual classroom.

Secondary Parents' Information can be found in the [Parents' Extended Closure booklet](#) and more information will be shared with you directly.

During Phase three online learning, students and parents and teachers can expect more live interaction during their day. Don't worry though, this is not going to be 5 or 6 hours of 'teacher TV' every day. For the best balance between learning, social interactions and physical development students will be doing a wide variety of learning activities.

Expect: Quality over quantity, variety, age appropriate strategies and community initiatives and challenges too.

COMING SOON: Bangkok Prep Community Challenge - Staying Connected Physically



Communication Team



What can parents do to support their child?

We can not do this without you. During an extended closure your role as parents and carers is vital. Here is what we would like you to do:

- Ensure your child(ren) has access to a device with a microphone and camera
- Ensure your child(ren) has a safe and quiet place to work. Please note that if two people are close together while using ZOOM, this will create feedback issues; spread out.
- Help your child(ren) to establish and follow a routine and build breaks into their day.
- Help to ensure that your child(ren) register each day
- Ask your child(ren) to speak to their teachers if they need more help
- Help to follow up if we contact you about attendance and do let the Primary and Secondary office know if the children can not participate for any reason
- Help to follow up if we contact you about any incomplete work or ways that your child(ren) could get more from their enhanced online learning
- Encourage, reward and praise your child(ren) as much as you can! *"You are all doing so well!"*

Giving back: Bangkok Prep will credit parents for some of the services that have not been possible during extended closure

We are committed to you, as key members of our community, and are already looking at how we can credit you for any paid services that have not been possible to provide during the extended closure.

A full refund for cancelled Term 2 External Providers of ECAs will be given. Further information about the credits/refunds for Term 2 ECA and Instrumental Music lessons can be found [here](#) .

We will also inform you about refunds / credits for school lunches, school transport, and any examination invigilation costs when have more details from the relevant organisations and we are clearer about the return to school date.



Communication
Team



What is happening in Thailand right now?

TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS

This afternoon, the Prime Minister General Prayut Chan-o-cha has declared a nationwide state of emergency, and initial restrictions have been issued in the fight against the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). New measures will initially be in place from yesterday, **Thursday 26th March to Thursday 30th April 2020.**

Thailand will be closing entry into the country unless you have a Thai passport or you or your family work in international organisations that are based in Thailand. This will affect some of our international families who have members that work outside of Thailand. We hope you have reached home safely but if not, please make sure you check the **'fit to fly' health certificate** you need for immigration. We are grateful that this step is taken during term time so that teachers, students and families are hopefully already safe at home in Bangkok. This [website](#) will keep you up to date with areas that are considered high risk.

Daily announcements and updates will be made by the Prime Minister or his delegate throughout this period. If you want to stay informed, you can see and hear these through the **National Broadcasting Services of Thailand (NBT)** you can watch the national broadcast television.

If you need or prefer the news in English, [this](#) is an excellent and reliable website that will list all the latest Prime Ministers' announcements.

Today it was confirmed that there is no lockdown or curfew. We were asked to **cooperate** when the Police or Soldiers carry out **temperature checks**. However, it is very clear that moving into different provinces will be very difficult and there will be checkpoints.

Therefore, we strongly **recommend that you stay in Bangkok**. This afternoon's statement also mentioned that **dissemination of fake news** and information on COVID-19 through various media channels is **forbidden**, as it may cause panic among the public. Therefore, we also recommend that staff, parents and students refrain from posting or commenting publicly on social media stories which originate from unofficial sources.



Communication Team



What can I do to help?

Please remember; **the virus is not spreading, people are spreading the virus.**

Coronaviruses can be spread when people with the virus have close sustained contact with people who are not infected. This typically means spending more than 15 minutes within two metres of an infected person, such as talking to someone for instance.

“Social distancing” is key to reducing the possibility of infection. **Social distancing** requires us to minimise socialising in public places, reducing our public transport use and where possible we should work and stay in our own homes.



You can also help by **encouraging those in vulnerable groups to stay home** and self isolate. In particular people who are older than 70 years, children below the age of five years, and people with underlying health conditions such as diabetes, hypertension, stroke, cardiopathy, respiratory problems and allergies.

Stay at home – no unnecessary journeys or social contact

Please do....



Stay at least three steps away from other people in your home if possible



Try to limit travel and stay home if you can



Keep in touch with one another



Wash hands for about 20 seconds with soap and hot water or use a sanitiser gel



Use a tissue for coughs and sneezes



Communication Team



Please don't....



Don't go to gatherings of people. If it is your birthday or a special event, keep this restricted to immediate household family and consider celebrating in a few weeks' time or getting together online.



'Stockpiling' is not allowed, please don't order more food or supplies than you need. We are very lucky that in Thailand, essential items will be available.



Sharing 'fake news' is banned in Thailand; please make sure you continue to be responsible online. In fact, **let's do better** than that, let's make sure that we all try to be a positive presence online and use the amazing connectivity we have in 2020 to help each other.

Please do your very best to have a safe, relaxing, healthy and restful weekend.

Very best wishes from the Communication Team at Bangkok Prep