



Communication Team



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

## FRIDAY NEWS FROM BANGKOK PREP: ISSUE 3

We would like to thank the whole of the Bangkok Prep Community for demonstrating all of our 'life values' during these difficult months. Without doubt, the way ahead is uncertain and we are doing our best at Bangkok Prep to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic whilst continuing to focus on the well being of the children at our school.



We would like to thank the overwhelming support that we have received from the parents and students during these difficult months, it is genuinely appreciated. A huge thank you to those parents who have taken the time to complete the official parent voice questionnaire as we will continue to use the results to refine our processes and support mechanisms. We hope you find some helpful information in this Friday News from Bangkok Prep Issue 3.

### How long will school be closed?

The orders under the current Emergency Decree will see the school remain closed until at least **Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2020**. The ability of schools to reopen thereafter will depend on the control of the spread of the virus in Thailand. At present, the MOE has said that private schools and Thai schools can open on Wednesday 1st July. However, the Ministry of Education (MOE) and BMA will assess the health situation in Bangkok and Thailand **every 14 days** and we will update the Bangkok Prep community accordingly.

Yesterday, there was a meeting between the Minister of Education and heads of international schools in Thailand. The notes from this meeting are being compiled this afternoon and the official letter will be issued in due course. Again, we will update the Bangkok Prep community accordingly.

We can not wait to have the children back in school but we will only do so when permitted by the Ministry of Education and when we are sure it is safe. We are aware that some schools optimistically posted 'reopening' plans online. The Ministry of Education has requested that all schools remove these dates until further notice is given.

### Enhanced Online Learning Phase 3!

As a school, we are fully prepared to continue as an outstanding learning community, even when it is necessary to deliver this learning from home. Our team has been working globally with other schools, online providers and a range of educational experts to ensure we have the **best provision** for our students.

Please read all about our phased approach to working and learning from home [here](#). After hundreds of hours of LIVE lessons since 24th February 2020, we have refined, developed, improved and learned a lot ourselves. We have been asked to share our blended approach to online learning with the wider school community.



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During Phase 3 online learning, students, 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. Teachers will carefully blend these activities together to provide effective, age appropriate learning experiences.

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

All students are now working with teachers in Phase 3 of our approach and we have had overwhelmingly positive feedback from students and parents: Thank you to all staff, students and parents who took time to share their feedback: Here are some of the results:

Nearly **90 percent** of our parents are positive in their feedback on our Phase 2 Online Learning, and now we have Phase 3 up and running we are now delivering **even more high quality learning!**

Our teachers have been receiving lots of **positive feedback** from the school community and it is great to hear that we are continuing to provide a high quality learning experience during these challenging circumstances!

This is amazing !! Please congratulate all students (and of course parents) because this week's student attendance via online learning this week;

|                               |      |
|-------------------------------|------|
| Student Attendance this week! | 99%+ |
|-------------------------------|------|

## ZOOM Security

You may have recently read about some security concerns over using Zoom and 'Zoom bombing'. To reassure you, we have been in contact with Zoom and they have told us that as we pay for the ZOOM Edu packages that our privacy and security settings are in place and Zoom have made recent upgrades and changes to improve security and user understanding of security too.

It is however important that we continue to research and educate each other, our children and Bangkok Prep community on how to use apps and other technology safely. Before the holiday the Online learning team completed trials and considered our use carefully. **We had therefore already carried out many of the safety measures that schools named in the online articles did not have in place.** Please read these steps below and if you are not sure, please ask or contact your child's class teacher or form tutor:

- Ensuring you always enable and use waiting rooms



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- Ensuring you only admit participants you have invited and who are entering using the correct name
- Ensuring links are shared for Zoom meetings privately and directly with students being invited on Firefly tasks. Please do not use your Personal Meeting ID (PMI) to host. Your PMI is essentially one continuous meeting and people can pop in and out all the time.
- Ensure you have read and follow the guidelines for staff to ensure everyone understands the E-safety procedures to keep our children and themselves safe when using zoom.

### Unless essential to learning, we suggest:

- Ensuring private chat is disabled (other than with the teacher)
- Preventing automatic screen sharing by all participants, other than the teachers.
- All staff have been asked to download the new version of zoom with greater privacy and security settings as advised by Mr Yim, our head of ICT <https://zoom.us/download>
- Reviewed the use of any 'Basic' accounts for Bangkok Prep. Basic user accounts should not be used to host meetings with students.

### Student Tips for Participating in Online Learning



#### Helpful tips for students success online

- Make sure you're muted when not talking
- Be yourself and respect others
- Ask questions using chat
- Use reactions to engage with your class
- Think before you write
- Utilize the raise your hand feature if wanting to ask a question live
- Set up an intentional space where the class is going to happen

## Community Voice Feedback

The addition of the **Bangkok Prep Term 4 Programme 2020** is in response to welcome and constructive feedback from the parents, students and staff who have completed the official Bangkok Prep Voice questionnaires which were shared by email in the final week of Term 2. Thank you for helping us to offer even more to the community. We will continue to seek your feedback; please do take the time to complete the questionnaires so that your voice can help ensure the very best in provision during this extended closure and beyond.

## NEXT STEPS

- Quantitative feedback is gathered from parents a second time using the **official Bangkok Prep parent voice** questionnaire (Friday 1st May)
- Parent focus groups are held to gather more in depth, qualitative feedback (week commencing 11th May)



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## Parents corner: Am I doing the right things to support my child?

We can not do this without you. During an extended closure your role as parents and carers is vital. It is very normal for you to be asking questions about what can I 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!"*

Be kind to yourselves and be flexible! Working and parenting at home can be very difficult: We are doing extremely well!!

Thank you! Great job!

Warm regards,

*The Communication Team*

## Who can I ask for help?

| Your Question or concern | Who to contact  |
|--------------------------|---|
| External Examinations    | Hugh Conway (Key Stage 4 Leader) or Chris Hall (Examination Officer)  |
| Subject Concerns         | Your child's Classroom Teacher in the first instance. If they cannot help, please contact the Faculty Leader. In the event that they cannot assist, please contact a member of the Primary / Secondary Leadership Team. |
| Pastoral Concerns        | Your child's Form Tutor in the first instance. If they cannot help, please contact their Year Leader. In the event that they cannot assist, please contact a member of the Primary / Secondary Leadership Team.         |



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## Songkran Challenge Round up!

# SONGKRAN CHALLENGE

Congratulations and thank you to everyone who took the time to take on one of the challenges. It was great to see so many creative entries!

All of our Primary entries and the winners can be found on our firefly page

<https://bkkprep.fireflycloud.asia/songkran-challenges>

It is definitely worth taking a look!

Highlights!

## 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

**Community Initiatives: Because we CARE**



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The Bangkok Prep Community thank all the frontline workers across the world working to fight against the COVID-19 pandemic

### **'Bangkok Prep Claps Because We Care!' Community Initiative Continues....**

For all the frontline workers battling COVID-19, both in Thailand and across the globe, we are continuing to dedicate this simple message of thanks to you all.

#### **Student led charitable initiatives**

**\*\*Shout-outs\*\***

Click on the links below to read the full post:

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>Year 5 parents Mr and Mrs Song donate 450 muslin fabric face masks to Primary.</b>                          | <b>Please check out and support student led COVIDfighters.bkk social media account.</b>                                    |
| <b>Ty in Year 2 and his family made and donated 100 face shields over the school break.</b>                    | <b>Omer in Year 2 and family make and donate more than 200 homemade fabric masks.</b>                                      |
| <b>Deputy Head Girl Natt made over 500 face shields to give to hospitals in rural areas of Thailand.</b>       | <b>Student led COVIDfighters.bkk raised over 65,000 baht selling t-shirts, postcards and donations received</b>            |
| <b>Omer in Year 2 and family make and donate 1200 face shields to a hospital in Bangkok over the holidays.</b> | <b>Pasin in Year 2 and family donated 100 care packages to the Taibanmai community, SamutPrakan.</b>                       |
| <b>Student led COVIDfighters.bkk sent home made PPE kits and face shields to 13 hospitals in Thailand!</b>     | <b>The Secondary DT Team develop and distribute face shields for Doctors at Ramathibodi Hospital and Siriraj Hospital.</b> |

#### **Charity Fundraising**

*Click on the links below to read the full post*

##### **RoyRak**

Close to our Bangkok Prep community is a campaign to try and keep RoyRak a non-profit jewellery making social enterprise, stay afloat during the period of social distancing and be able to pay their employees.

##### **Second Chance Fundraising**



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Our KS1 Leader Ms Ellie Godwin is fundraising for Second Chance Bangkok to help their community survive in this difficult time. "Whilst we are all so lucky during this time, please take time to think about those who are not quite as fortunate as we are".

### BKK Pay Forward

Bangkok Prep are proud to support a project that aims to prevent restaurants from laying off staff whilst simultaneously providing free food to low income communities impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic.

- Check out projects on [Taejai.com](https://www.taejai.com): They are crowdfunding a lot of projects such as fundraising money to buy medical equipment for hospitals, supporting households with elders who are the most vulnerable in this crisis, or buying masks for marginalized children.
- [Covid Relief Bangkok group on Facebook](#) are packing COVID relief packs for low-income communities all over Bangkok. They accept donations as well as goods.
- Mercy Centre - [Mercy Centre Evening Programme volunteers](#)

### **Very best wishes from the Communication Team at Bangkok Prep**

#### **Useful Links**

Daily updates in English can be found [HERE](#)

**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.

### **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! The links are below and there is lots to see and do: Why not join in the PE work out of the day?**

