

22 March 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Since my last letter to all of you, Covid-19 infection and prevention has gripped the world as nearly 300,000 people have contracted the virus and more than 12,000 people have succumbed to the disease. The global epicentre of Covid-19 has shifted from China to Italy and many countries in Europe and the Americas are experiencing steep increases in infections on a daily basis. This is indeed unprecedented times and one that in the words of our Foreign Minister (and old boy), Dr Vivian Balakrishnan, will test *“preparedness on all fronts - healthcare, governance and social capital.”*

On the home front, Singapore has put in place enhanced social and physical distancing measures and measures to safeguard our borders from imported cases. All this has been done to ensure that our essential health services are not overwhelmed and that we will emerge from this crisis as one.

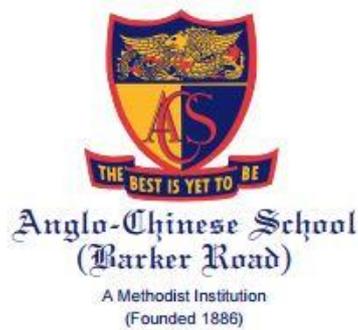
Schools will re-open for Term 2 on 23 March 2020 (Monday) as planned. There will be enhanced precautionary measures to keep our students and staff in schools safe. All staff and students who have travelled out of Singapore, regardless of length or country, will be put on 14 days of Leave of Absence (LOA). This will see about twenty staff members and more than sixty students staying away from school for first two weeks.

The school has also asked vendors, coaches and instructors who have travelled to self-isolate and not be present in school for any activities. All parents who have travelled out of Singapore should likewise not come to school for 14 days after date of arrival in Singapore. Security guards have been asked to turn away any visitors to our campus who have travelled overseas in the last 14 days.

The school will support students issued LOA and Stay Home Notices (SHN) with Home Based Learning (HBL). Communication with affected students will be done via their student email accounts. Parents of affected students should remind your children to check their student email accounts daily.

All CCA and after school activities e.g. Academic Coaching will be suspended for the next two weeks till 6 April 2020. The Student Hub will be closed for this period to encourage students to return home after school. Lessons at external venues e.g. 3rd language at MOE Bishan and Newton Language Centres, AEP, MEP, higher MT, have also been suspended for the next two weeks.

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Curriculum lessons like Geography/Biology/Math/English classes which are normally held after school in ACS(BR) as part of the student's subject offering will continue as per usual.

Routines like temperature taking and wipe down of classroom and canteen tables will continue with greater earnestness. The school will also put in place individual social distancing measures like fixed seating in class and during recess and ensuring that students do not gather unnecessarily before or after school. I hope you can remind your child to bring their thermometers and to adhere to social distancing measures instituted within the school.

With the number of teachers who are on LOA, there is a need for our students to access learning materials prepared by these teachers on their Chromebooks or to work with relief teachers for their learning in the first two weeks. I hope you can remind your sons about working respectfully with relief teachers and for the students with Chromebooks, to bring them fully charged to school every day at least for the first two weeks.

Finally, please support the school by reminding your child not to arrange to meet up with students placed on LOA or SHN either at their homes or outside, as we require these students to isolate themselves during their LOA and SHN periods. To encourage these students, online chats or texts to keep in contact or little acts of reminding them of what has been covered in school may be more helpful.

Thank you once again for your support so far and I know I can count on your continued support of the school's measures this term.

Yours sincerely,

Loo Ming Yaw
Principal

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