



Dear Parents,

Welcome to the beginning of Week 5 of Distance Learning.

This is where I hope, when I talked about the 7 Levels of grief, number 7, is now starting to set in **“Acceptance and Hope”**. Acceptance of the situation we are in and hope that it will settle and we find our **‘groove’** as we move into the remaining 8 weeks! During this time, many elements of our everyday lives have changed. We fully understand how important it is to continue delivering learning and keep students **motivated and connected**. Many of you have written to me to share how much more of Teaching and Learning you understand now in this age of distance learning. This is particularly so for those of you with **younger children**. I know that it is not easy. We certainly **recognize** what you are going through at home.

In terms of the Distance Learning programme last week we saw even better **attendance rates, 98%** attendance, the same as when we are at school. This is really impressive and thank you for ensuring that your children continue to remain committed to the programme.

We believe that each student that reaches for an **extracurricular activity** or club does so to find a sense of purpose, and in these times, that is what they need the most. Along with setting up grade assemblies and greater community engagement activities again we are also looking at the redesign of our Extra Curricular Activities Program. Student Leaders also sending out a **weekly challenge** to students. So, look out soon for opportunities coming your way to engage the students outside their normal academic day.

Also, we are delighted to announce the **launch of Active Kids**. This information being sent out early in the week. Being at home due to COVID-19 hasn't been easy for most of us. At GEMS Education we are therefore working to not only ensure learning continuity but also the physical and emotional well-being of your child. With extended school closure announced till the end of June, it is more important than ever for children to continue with their academics while also having the right exposure to physical exercise.

**What is Active Kids?** Active Kids helps students stay fit and healthy through physical and extra-curricular activities while they are at home. Although physical education is already included in the course curriculum, through Active Kids we encourage students to perform physical activities beyond class hours. These activities are specifically customised for GEMS schools.

GEMS is now sending out a centralised **Parent Survey** to explore your experience of Distance Learning. Please take the time to complete this when it hits your inbox. The quality of the personnel in CIS has meant that we see a **95% positive reaction** on the most recent parent survey to our Distance Learning provision. **Feedback is a gift** and we need to continue to hear your constructive feedback so we can continue to adjust and **refine what we do**. There is **no point** going to WhatsApp or any other **social media** platform looking **for answers**. Here we are, **ask and we will do our best** to accommodate keeping in mind the needs of all our community **#cis1family1planet**.

I want to thank all of you who have responded to the calls from our Admissions team and Senior Leadership Team regarding the payment of Term 3 fees. These are very **difficult conversations** at this trying time in the Dubai and global economies. To those of you who have paid **THANK YOU!** Not all families are in the same financial situation. If there are special circumstances please feel free to contact me or the Finance or Admissions Team to discuss how we might assist you. I know that the average **Relief Package at CIS was 40%** and we hope that this has provided some relief for families in most need. Please remember that if you suffer anymore or new impact due to COVID 19 **you are able to still apply** to the relief package. Also, this week GEMS announced that **no LSA's fees** will be

charged during Term 3. Hopefully providing further relief to parent's without compromising the continued LSA support.

Recently we have had **approval from the KHDA** to allow parents to **pick up items/resources** from the school. Keeping to the government regulations, parents are not allowed into the school. However, they can collect from a drop box that will be at **Security, Gate 1**. At present, you will be able to collect books on **Sunday from 8am – 4pm**. In keeping with government lockdown regulations, we would remind you to apply for a movement permit from the authorities in order to make this journey: <https://dxbpermit.gov.ae/home>

Please email Mr Siby on [s.philip1\\_cis@gemsedu.com](mailto:s.philip1_cis@gemsedu.com) who will arrange your books and have them available on that day.

When requesting items/resources please provide your child's full name, class and a list of items/resources that you would like to collect. These requests must be emailed no later than Thursday at 10pm.

The **Holy Month of Ramadan** is also coming soon. We will be sending out a survey shortly to you to request you feedback on timing options. Please **take 2 minutes** to complete this as it will give us a better understanding of your needs.

Finally, I hope this week brings a greater **'groove'** with your families. Savour this time together. While we hope that it finishes soon I know that sometime in the future we will look back at this global impact and have learnt a new way of viewing the way we live and connect to each other.

Thank you to parent's that have remained faithful to our vision of making this the best school for your children.

Sincerely,



Lachlan MacKinnon

CEO/Principal

*Fortune Favours the Brave*