

Dear parents,

We sincerely trust that all of you and your families are safe and healthy during this unprecedented era of the Coronavirus pandemic. The virus has endangered our lives and has disrupted the education of children in the schools in Oman and all over the world. The pandemic, according to experts, will persist for a length of time, during which the education of children at ISS cannot be compromised.

Some parents have expressed concern over payment of monthly fees for the quarter ending June 2020. The decision, for the retainment, deferment, part payment or waiver of these fees, must be administered by the Board Directors of Indian Schools in Oman, thereby ensuring uniformity in the application of their considered resolution throughout all Indian schools in Oman. We are confident that the Board of Directors will address this matter judiciously in view of the present crisis. We will revert on this issue after we obtain the appropriate directives from the Board of Directors of Indian Schools in Oman.

Education must continue in this challenging environment and online classes are the only feasible solution for the present moment. Several impediments arise with online classes. However, this is the only avenue available to us to ensure that students remain connected to education during this lockdown period. Teachers and students encounter adaptability struggles in switching over from a traditional classroom and face to face teaching to computer based learning in a virtual classroom.

We have conducted rigorous training programmes for teachers and will continue this process for the new teaching methodology. Teachers have to adapt and learn, considering that they have never undergone this process of confronting the camera, being monitored from every home, grappling with technical glitches and setting up a learning platform. For students who are unable to cope or connect through the online platform or lack facilities to do so, we will extend all possible support to such students after they return to the regular classroom.

Despite the unpredictable prevalent situation with the school remaining closed since 15th March 2020, we have been able to provide the following :

- a) On time generation of online results
- b) Conducting improvement of performance exams for students of class 9.
- c) Admission for new students.
- d) Issuing transfer certificates.
- e) Activating student engagement through holiday homework till 15th April.
- f) Sharing of creative work to combat Corona through Facebook ( IS Sohar Combat Corona Creatively ).

- g) Conducting online classes from 15th April for all grades, except LKG which will commence on 22nd April.
- h) Ensuring availability of textbooks (pdf versions) from class 6 onwards.
- i) Procuring books, through publishers, for classes KG to 5.
- j) Training students for e-learning in a virtual classroom.
- k) Making available counselling services.
- l) Bridging the communication gap between the school and parents by creating individual class wise WhatsApp groups.

We have also shared the contact details of individuals to comprehend various issues pertaining to transfer certificates, fees and teaching related matters. Security issues exist with Zoom meetings. After reviewing several alternatives, we have decided to opt for Goggle Meet to counter the concerns pertaining to security.

We will continue to persist, achieve and excel. We urge you to encourage and enforce your children to devote a substantial portion of their time to learning.

We look forward to your unstinted support and cooperation as we navigate through these demanding and uncertain times towards a brighter future.

Warm regards,

Sanchita Verma  
Principal  
Indian School Sohar.

cc : Mr. M.P. Vinoba  
Sr. Principal and Education Advisor  
Board of Directors  
Indian Schools in Oman.