



7<sup>th</sup> April 2020

Dear Parents

**Re: Catch - Up**

Assalamu alaikom

We hope this letter reaches you in the best of health and strong Imaan.

Below a catch-up and update for all our parents. Forgive the length of the letter – unprecedented times leading to unprecedented lengthy letters!

**Home Learning**

First of all we would like to thank you for supporting us in making the transition to home learning so smoothly and successfully. We know that it is not easy for parents - particularly for those of you who are also working from home - to balance your own work with allocated online work and activities for your child/ren. Many of our teachers and admin staff have to juggle this balancing act too!

The expectation from school is, that as parents, you do what you can. Children are learning all the time, just by engaging in activities alongside adults. We want to make sure that you feel supported by your child's class teacher in relation to home learning, that expectations are clear and that the demands on you as parents are not too great. Although in general, children are expected to complete the daily tasks set by their teachers, if they cannot manage this on some days that is fine.

It is a good idea to have a daily schedule, both for children and adults; however, allowances must be made during these exceptional times, especially for our children. Although we try our best to protect them, they are aware of what is going on around them and most likely do feel scared and frightened. The daily school routine has stopped, visits to friends, family and loved ones have come to an abrupt halt. Everything has changed, literally from one day to the next and the reality of being trapped at home is probably beginning to sink in. Children will express their anxiety and worries in different ways, often non-verbally through their behaviour. The best you can do as parents is to simply be there for them, comfort and reassure them and let them feel that they are loved. And if that means playing a game together, exercising, baking, kicking a ball around in the garden or simply have some snuggle time with each other, instead of doing school work, then so be it. The mental and emotional welfare of your children, our children, will always come first.





### **Spring Term Holidays**

MMPS is closed for Spring Break and home learning will start again on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> April as will the offer to open school for children of key workers (see further down). Within days of reopening, the blessed month of Ramadan will be upon us and thus the **Ramadan school timings, 10 am to 3:30 pm**, will start straight away, on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> April.

### **Home Learning during Ramadan: KS1 and KS2**

Home learning will resume at 10 am on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> April, insha'Allah. A Ramadan timetable will be set up with classes having a Maths and English lesson in the morning. Videos on Dojo have proven to be very popular and we will continue with the same format.

In the afternoons, pupils will have subject lessons or engage in a Ramadan activity insha'Allah. Class teachers will set up a Ramadan timetable so pupils and parents are informed of the structure.

Pupils should complete allocated activities on the same day, within school hours, just as they would when in school. If they miss a piece of work, as mentioned above, they are not required to catch up and post late work in their Dojo portfolio; this also creates a huge backlog of marking for the teachers who are working from home too and are trying to keep up with the fast pace of uploading videos and marking. We have therefore asked teachers not to mark/comment on work that is saved late. The pupils may, of course, still upload their work into the portfolios – the teacher will then simply approve it but not mark or comment on it. We trust your full support and understanding in this matter.

We have also subscribed to a new online learning platform which pupils will be given access to after the holidays. Introducing something new will ensure that our pupils remain engaged. We are continuously evaluating and reviewing our provision as more resources for home learning become available and will keep parents updated on further resource and approaches that we may introduce.

### **Home Learning during Ramadan: EYFS**

Our youngest pupils will continue with activities at home suggested by their teachers via Tapestry as this is going very well indeed, masha'Allah. Please continue to upload your observations, photographs and video clips which we really enjoy watching.

### **Key Worker Provision during Ramadan**

Key Worker provision during Ramadan will be offered from 8:30 am to 3:30 pm and a separate letter will be sent to Key Worker parents / carers.





### **Contacting us during Spring Holidays**

Our admissions officers and bursar will continue to work from home during the holidays. Please see website for contact details.

<https://www.mmps.miet.uk/about/school-closure-information/>

Apologies again for this very lengthy email; in absence of our regular 'playground' chat there is much to say and to update you with.

We send our warmest salaam to all our parents and pupils and will touch base again when school re-opens in the virtual world, on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> April, 2020, insha'Allah.

May Allah swt protect you and your loved ones.

Wasalaam

D. Ghafari  
*Acting Head Teacher*

M. Mohamed  
*Executive Head Teacher*

