

Open letter to Parents and Students - Lockdown Crisis

Dear Parents and JKians,



At the very outset, I would like to send you warm greetings from JKPS family!

We are going through an unprecedented global predicament today. Each one of us and the entire world is affected by the coronavirus pandemic; our economy, our families, communities and our entire way of life are adversely affected by the scare of infection and contagion. I would like to share your anxiety and preoccupations and express my solidarity with you and your family. In these difficult and crisis times, I wanted to reach out to you and update you how we, at JKPS can address this issue with compassion and understanding.

To begin with, I request all of you to place on record the brave hearts who have been working tirelessly putting at risk their own life, all the volunteers, health professionals all over the world. Their selfless service is commendable. Let us in spirit, wish and pray for all people who have been affected by the virus directly or indirectly. We, at JKPS, are concerned about the health and safety of our students, staff and their families and friends.

We are all in an unfamiliar situation and have no clue of how to deal with it. There is no right or wrong response to this crisis, and there is no "One Way"..I do appreciate that you are stressed, too, whether worrying about your kids losing learning time, or high-stakes exams that may or may not take place, or how to facilitate their learning at home away from school.

Your job as parents during this time, is to keep your children happy and focus on their mental well-being, amidst rising anxiety and isolation, they are passing through. What kids need right now, is to feel comforted and loved. Bake cookies, paint pictures, play board games and watch movies. Do spend quality time with them or engage in any activity together!

I really want you, to understand that school is still alive ,well functioning .The difference is that the school as a community is moving from a physical campus to On line. We do realise our commitment to our stake holders that learning is a continuous process and it must go on--.

My dear Students, keeping in mind your health and wellbeing, I request you not to risk travelling unnecessarily, by being adventurous, lest you contact this contagion. We also would like to assure you that your future prospects and careers are also our immediate priority.

I take this opportunity to thank my dedicated staff who rose to this crisis situation and learnt and evolved new ways mingled with sound IT technology in a small span of 4 to 5 days [when lockdown was announced by our Hon. Prime Minister] so that , you don't miss out your learning and feel disconnected with school and teachers , which you must have never anticipated in your life. I have been amazed and extremely grateful for all those devoted and dedicated teachers of JKPS who have shown us Creative ways of doing this. However, I am also conscious of the strain this puts on all-Teachers, students and families. We all need to embrace this change which we now call as NEW NORMAL. Children you may not like this new set up, butyoucan't ignore the fact that 290 millions of your peers around the world are also sailing in the same boat.

Videos, PowerPoint presentations and content have been shared with the students. For those with poor or no internet connectivity, recorded videos of classes conducted are being sent to the children. It is a formidable challenge for teachers who have been thrown into this situation, but they have risen to the occasion remarkably sound .Parents' feedback on these classes has been very encouraging!

In the backdrop of such challenging situations, JK Public School aims at imparting knowledge through a connection especially conducive to the learning needs of students. We are particular about being a part of online class lectures on the Zoom App. Lessons in all major subjects are conducted for Class 10 and 12 students. I am personally in touch with their teachers through video conferencing on the Zoom App to take stock of the progress made, and to plan further lessons.

Staff is working from home to design lessons and assignments. The work done by students is also being assessed. Focus on not just academics but co-scholastic area is also taken care of by teachers. Art, yoga classes are much engaging for young children, to break their monotony at home.

This is the moment we are called to be our best selves in tune with the vision and mission of JKPS, to be men and women for and with others leading a life of patience, empathy and compassion. The virus has prompted all of us to gain a heightened self-awareness. I am sure all of us have been practising social distancing, physical distancing and coming together on social media for mutual morale boosting conversations and sharing. This is the best way to counter the pandemic.

I can leave you with one good message, it's this:

At the end of this crisis, your kids' mental health will be more important than their academic skills. And how they felt during this time will stay with them long after the memory of what they did during those weeks is long gone. So keep that in mind, every single day and be positive---

*Take care
&
Stay home; Stay safe!*

Vandana Sharma

Principal

JK PUBLIC SCHOOL

KUNJWANI, JAMMU