



20<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Dear Parents, Students and Guardians,

I hope you are all well and staying healthy during this CMCO period.

Thank you for your continued partnership and support as we continue with online teaching and learning for our students during our school closure. Preparing for school closure at such a short amount of time has been, and will continue to be a total team effort from every department to every team member in our community. I am quite pleased to hear positive feedback from many parents who wrote in complementing us. I am happy that learning in Term III is progressing well online.

### **Passing away of Mr. Vijay Pal Singh**

On 7 May 2020, Mr VijayPal Singh, one of our pioneer members, was called to his heavenly abode. He was one of my first colleagues who had joined Tanarata and helped in making the school what it is today. He had been battling cancer bravely for over two years and finally succumbed to it. He was passionate about teaching and being around young people. Always immaculately attired and with a hearty laughter even when he was sick, he has left a huge vacuum amongst us which will be difficult to fill. We hope he will finally rest in peace as his suffering comes to an end.

### **Term II Transcripts**

The CMCO period has been extended till 9 June and we have no clarity if the Ministry of Education will allow schools to be reopened. With this in mind, we have now begun sending our Term II transcripts as a pdf file without signatures to your child's tanarata.net account. Please keep an eye out for it. You may discuss your child's performance with their subject teachers by writing in on teamie or sending an email to admin@tanarata.net. We will gladly set up a virtual meet for you. Hard copies of these will be given when we reopen school.

### **Mental Health of students and discipline while at home**

You might be inclined to create a minute by minute schedule for your kids. You have high hopes of hours of learning, including online activities, science experiments, and book reports. You'll limit technology until everything is done! But here's the thing...

Over the last few weeks you might have noticed an increase in behavior issues with your kids. Whether its anxiety, or anger, or protest that they can't do things normally – it will happen. What children need right now is to feel comforted and loved, to feel like it's all going to be okay. This might mean that you tear up your perfect schedule and shower some extra love on your children. I have noticed that many parents are baking cookies and painting pictures, activities that they have never done before. Play board games and watch movies. Do a science experiment together or find virtual field trips of the zoo. Start a book and read together as a family. Don't scream at your kids for not following the schedule. Don't mandate two hours of learning time if they are resisting it. Don't worry about them regressing in school. Once we are back in school, life will fall back in place. At the end of all of this, your child's mental health will be more important than their academic skills. And how they felt during this time will stay with them long after.

### **Fee Discounts**

I am well aware of the hardships that many families in general are experiencing with job losses and salary cuts. The management had decided to give RM 5/day as a fee waiver for every day that school is closed. For those of you who may have done your calculations that is about 10% of our weighted school fee average. We will be unable to give you bigger discounts even if we would wish too. Any larger discount would mean breaking our back and hurting the morale of school staff. Countries all over the world are learning to live with Covid-19 and communities and limping back to some sort of 'normalcy'. We hope the situation will recover soon for those suffering in our community. Please write to me separately and we will how we can help if you are having financial woes.

### **Hari Raya Break**

On behalf of every one in our community I would like to wish all Muslims 'Eid Mubarak' on this joyous occasion. We are missing the opportunity to celebrate it together in school by decorating the MPH and having a special assembly. One of the many casualties of the pandemic. There will be no online lessons on 26th and 27th May to mark the mid-term break after Hari Raya.

Like all of you, I can't wait for some normalcy to return to our lives. Till then stay home and stay safe.

Best Regards,

Barnali Guha



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