# Podar International School (IB & Cambridge International)

Dear Parents,

To ensure educational continuity of learning, we, at Podar International School (IB & Cambridge International) are switching to a 100% Online learning environment from Wednesday, 1st April 2020 till Tuesday, 14th April, 2020.

During these days, students will access offline and online instructional opportunities from home to continue the learning process.

In an effort to support you we have listed some frequently asked questions (FAQs) to ensure that everyone at home is ready to engage in Distance Learning.

Teachers and administrators will make themselves available for questions and support as we all work through this process. The goal is to ensure students can continue their learning from a distance for this extended closure and be ready to continue the learning when they return feeling comfortable and confident.

If you have a question not addressed on this page, please email principal.ib@podar.org

1. **Who can I contact for questions about the shared distance learning activities?**
   Please contact your student's class teacher for questions about shared learning activities. You can share your concerns via the BetweenUs portal or even post your question on the Google classroom, Alternatively, your teacher will be engaging with students every day during the online sessions. You can also post your question once the session is over.

2. **Who can I contact if I need technology support for logging to Google Hangouts meet or Google Classroom?**
   "How to Do Guide" with instructions for logging in the Google Hangouts Meet and Google Classroom will be shared with the parents. These instructions are simple to understand. In case further help is required, you can contact the class teacher and it will be resolved.

3. **How should I prepare the home environment for school?**
   - Please determine a space in your home that will be dedicated to completing each day's learning activities.
   - Keep your device at home prepared to access the school resources.
   - In case of WiFi issues you can alternatively use your mobile hotspot to connect to the internet and join the sessions.
   - It's ok if you don't have a printer. The student can solve the worksheet in the notebook, click an image and upload the same on the Google classroom.

   Remember to incorporate time to move! It is common for students to get up and move around, wiggle, or even chat with friends multiple times throughout the day.

4. **Will my student participate in live learning?**
   Yes, we have ensured that your child comes face to face with the teacher at least once during the day so that they both know each other.

5. **How much "screen time" should I expect for my child?**
   - **Grades 1-5** : Math and English will each include 45 minutes of technology-centred learning activities each day.  Additionally, students may engage in another 30 minutes for social interaction with friends. Once a week, an additional Language either Hindi or French would be online for 45 minutes.
   - **Grades 6-7** : Your child would be engaging in at least 3 online sessions for 45 minutes each.
   - **Grades 8-12** : Your child would be engaging in at least 5 online sessions of 45 minutes each.

   **Please note : Breaks will be given in intervals to incorporate movements and relaxation for eye muscles.**

6. **Will the work be collected, recorded and/or graded? Will students be tested on the work?**
   There will be ongoing assessments for the students to check their progress. In addition to their online classes, they'll do offline projects and reading, and work with hands-on materials. Parents are encouraged to review their child's work and provide constructive feedback as part of the learning process.

7. **Do the Learning Activities have to be completed in order?**
   It is not necessary to complete the activities listed in order. However, it is important students complete all activities for the day and upload it in the classroom for feedback from their teachers.

8. **Teacher keeps sending home links and emails with more work. Is it important that my child completes all?**
   Please remember we are only trying to support your child's learning at home. Have a look at the two day parent overview timetable sent to you. There will tasks / activities which the child is expected to complete and upload in the Google classroom. These are the ones which need to be worked upon.

   Some links are for reinforcement of concepts which can be done at ease. These are suggestions and ideas. Use them if they suit you.

9. **Someone in my child's class has everything done and we've barely started. Will they fall behind?**
   We understand that all children are different and will learn at their own pace. We have put in in differentiated tasks where possible.  However, your child will not fall behind if not completed. We will revise the important concepts again when conditions improve and everything will fall back in the right place. Your child can also revise concepts using the Century Tech nuggets and Literacy Planet tasks assigned to him / her.

10. **How are we providing support and intervention for students with special needs?**
    We will have online counselling sessions for parents to understand how they can support the learning of their child under the given circumstances.

11. **How will I know my child's class and class teacher?**
    Your child will be added to the Google Classroom of his / her class with the gmail id registered with the school. This will be your child's class for the academic year 2020-21. The class teacher is incharge of her Classroom. You will be able to contact her through email and official Whatsapp group. Kindly remember to email or message her only when something is really important. You are free to send your questions on portal which will be responded to.

**12. Is my child's attendance being marked?**

Since the online sessions are being held during school hours, it is just like any regular day at school. Therefore your child's attendance is being marked.

**13. When will I know if the school closure time period is extended?**

We will notify parents if the closure time period is extended. This will depend on the directives issued by the Government of India.

**14. Is the work new content or is it a review of previously learned material?**

Since we are beginning with the new Academic Year 2020-21. All content is new, based on grade level expectations.

**15. Since we are following the time table of a regular day at school, how has the school taken care of co-curricular activities?**

We have taken care of most of the co-curricular activities which will involve a lot of parent child bonding. Teachers have planned activities that the child will enact / perform and upload an image of the same in the classroom OR provide a reflection of his / her experience and upload it in the classroom.

**16. What if my child is unable to attend the virtual classroom session led by the teacher? Will he / she be able to cope up?**

We wish for all to remain safe and healthy. We understand that a child could miss his / her session. In such cases, the resources in the form of presentations will be available for parents in the Google classroom. You will be able to teach the same concept to the child. There would be no learning gap.

**17. Is a virtual school day more flexible than the regular school day?**

Refer Question 7.

The online school environment can be more flexible than the regular school day as you are able to modify the day to suit your child's strengths. However, mandatory online classes and meetings with the teacher will be held at scheduled times throughout the day.

**18. How do students interact with other classmates in a virtual school environment?**

The timetable is designed in a way where the students will have 30 minutes to interact with their peers online.

Podar International School (IB & Cambridge International), Santacruz West, Mumbai - 400054