

The logo for Polam School features a large, stylized blue letter 'P' on the left. To its right, the words 'Polam School' are written in a blue, sans-serif font. The 'P' is significantly larger than the text, and its top curve extends above the 'P' and 'o'.

13th March 2020

Dear Parent

I am writing to update you on our coronavirus response and continued planning following the government's COBRA meeting yesterday. I know many parents have been in touch in recent days to ask about a potential school closure – we are keen to maintain frequent and open communication with you in these unprecedented times.

While the UK has moved into the 'Delay' phase of its Coronavirus Action Plan, the official government advice for schools remains unchanged. As you know, we are following all Public Health England (PHE), Department for Education and NHS guidance. In addition, we have already introduced some additional measures such as asking parents to temperature check pupils before attending school, self-reporting of families' travel plans, an increased level of cleaning and an emphasis on hand washing and hygiene in school.

We will continue with this approach while preparing for the possibility that school closures may be introduced at any time. We are committed to maintaining a normal teaching and learning environment for our pupils, whilst carefully monitoring the fast-moving situation with our Cognita Response Team. We are also drawing upon the experience of further Cognita schools, namely in Spain, that are now successfully delivering remote learning programmes amid mandatory closures.

Yesterday's announcement by the government advised against all international school trips, whilst this does not directly apply in our school, we will be considering each trip we have planned carefully. Trips within a school's immediate locality or within the UK are advised to proceed. However, please let me reassure you that any planned trips are now risk assessed specifically with Coronavirus in mind right up to the date of the trip and will not go ahead if we feel it inadvisable.

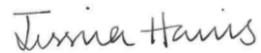
Our guiding principle is to ensure the safety and wellbeing of our students while managing this challenging situation in a calm and proportionate manner. To that end, our Group Wellbeing Director for Cognita, Beth Kerr, has prepared some helpful tips for parents on protecting the emotional wellbeing of our children at this time. These are attached along with our latest 'Cognita Be Well Comments' resource, on the topic of sleep, which was due to be released this month in the ordinary course of events.

Please don't hesitate to contact me should you have any concerns. We have a new page on our school website <https://www.polamschool.co.uk/coronavirus-covid-19/> which shares latest updates in relation to coronavirus, making it easier for you as parents to view key information.

As ever, thank you for your support. In closing, I would like to share with you this [video update](#) for Cognita employees by our Group CEO Chris Jansen. While this was directed at employees, I thought you may find it of interest too. We will draw on all the resources we have at our disposal to ensure a safe and positive educational experience for your children.

As ever please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions at jessica.harris@polamschool.co.uk.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jessica Harris".

Jessica Harris
Headteacher

Sent via email with attachments:
Cognita Sleep
Cognita Coronavirus Tips