



2 April 2020

ICS Parent Update 15

Dear Parents

My meteorological mindset yesterday clearly worked, and the sun has shone on Amman for most of today. I hope this has helped you all find some positivity, perspective and patience with which to battle the uncertainty ahead.

Family Teacher Conferences

The phone lines around Amman have been buzzing today as over 700 conversations took place about ICS students' learning and wellbeing. Initial feedback has been overwhelmingly positive, and our teachers are so grateful for the appreciation so many of you have communicated for their own efforts at this difficult time. If you were not able to speak with your child's Class Teacher (Primary) or Form Tutor (Secondary) today, please do feel free to get in touch with Mariam at m.alnahhas@ics.edu.jo (Primary) or Haneen at h.qulaghassi@ics.edu.jo (Secondary), and they will try to arrange a meeting via email or telephone for some point next week.

Ideas for your Weekend

Whilst some of you will already have your weekend lockdown routines slickly oiled, tomorrow's complete curfew may prove a challenge even for you; for the rest of us, new ideas to stay optimistic and happy at home could be a handy prescription. Here are just some of the ideas I have found for you this afternoon:

The Little Tiny Quiz of the Lockdown: Fans, or haters, of British comedian, Jimmy Carr, might be familiar with his annual Big Fat Quiz of the Year. On his youtube site, he is sharing a 'tiny' quiz every day.

Travel the World with Google Earth: We may be confined to our homes much of the time, but that doesn't stop us travelling the world. Whilst writing this letter, for example, I took a brief visit to magnificent Machu Picchu in Peru, and feel strangely refreshed.

#letsbuildtogether: Most of us, if we are honest, have never fallen out of love with *Lego*, and Lego has opened up its website to help families in lockdown, encouraging us all to 'build together'.

Learn from the experts: For some of us, solitude and isolation are new and unfamiliar phenomena, but this article shows you how to do lockdown like a Pro, from people for whom life and isolation automatically go hand in hand.

Fed up with Motivational Memes? If people like me constantly telling you to be positive and look on the bright side are starting to get irritating, have a browse through some of the sarcastic memes on this deliciously dark website.



INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY SCHOOL
مدرسة الجالية الدولية

Patrons: H.R.H. Prince El Hassan Bin Talal
H.R.H. Princess Sarvath El Hassan

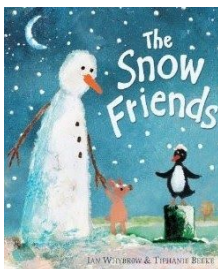
Principal: Matthew Savage

Go back to Hogwarts: J. K. Rowling and her team have launched a special, new online space for Potterheads worldwide to immerse themselves in a world that somehow, now, seems a whole lot simpler than our own.

Launch yourself into Space: Make the most of the resources NASA has made available to try to recreate for families and wannabe astronauts across the world the magic and unfathomable enormity of Space.

Give yourself a new Challenge: Fans of British quiz show, *Taskmaster*, in which contestants are given an array of wild and wacky challenges to complete, may want to experience the new world of #hometasking.

#reasonstobecheerful



Since I started recording picture books for the children of a very close friend of mine, to help them through days and weeks inside, it is becoming a habit to share one of them in my Parent Update each Thursday. This week, a beautifully simple story of companionship and company, for these lonely times, by Ian Whybrow and Tiphany Beeke: **The Snow Friends**.

Have a lovely weekend **#athome!**

Best wishes

Matthew Savage
Principal