



Remote and Online learning in the event of a Southbank Hampstead closure: Parent Information

School closures

School may close for different reasons and different periods. A short closure may be required for a deep clean on Public Health advice, or a longer closure if the UK Government, health authority or Cognita decide a longer term closure is required. Please note that shorter closures may be specific to a single Southbank campus.

The school will try to maintain age appropriate learning activities for children to do at home in the event of either closure.

1. Short term - up to 5 days: **Remote learning**
2. Longer term: 5+ days: **Online learning**

Communications and schedule

Q: How will the parent community be kept updated about developments while school is closed?

A: General Southbank-wide updates will come from Executive Principal Siobhan McGrath via email and text messages, from our iSAMS database. Any Hampstead-specific updates will come from Alex Pearce-Crump, PA to the Principal.

Q: How will teachers and students communicate?

A: Regular written communication will be via email, using Southbank email accounts.

Classes may also “meet” online via Google online tools or Seesaw. Google Meet will be accessible during school hours (09.00 to 15:00) from Monday to Friday.

According to the existing practice in each class, resources will be shared by age appropriate platforms that students currently use in their lessons — Google Classroom (Upper Primary) and Seesaw (All). Any tasks or assessments that are assigned by a teacher will be submitted and returned digitally. Please remember that in the event of a widespread school closure our staff may also be looking after their own children at home.

Q: What will be the daily schedule if school is closed?

A: For Remote Learning (the first 5 days or a short term closure), home learning tasks will be sent to parents and may include the use of Seesaw (all) or Google Classroom (Upper Primary). Parents are recommended to provide a school-like learning environment of approximately 09.00 - 15.00 with appropriate play, snack and lunch breaks. Feedback from the asian schools who have been working like this since January, is that creating time for fun and play is equally important to maintain balance and well-being.

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COGNITA

Registered in England
Trading as Cognita School Limited
No. 2313425
Registered Office: Seebeck House,
One Seebeck Place, Knowlhill,
Milton Keynes MK5 8FR, UK



Southbank International School 40th Anniversary

For Online learning (5+ days) the school will provide regular opportunities for students to engage with learning materials through our digital platforms with some interaction between teachers and students that will support independent and some group or small group learning where appropriate or feasible.

As far as possible, school hours will continue to follow our usual daily schedule between 09.00 and 15.00. Students should be located in a setting that is conducive to learning (eg *quiet, calm, no obvious distractions*), with access to their ipad and school exercise book, pencils and logged on at the same times as their usual lessons. In the event of a longer closure, we anticipate this adapting over time to ensure that there are still opportunities for children to have fun and regular learning breaks.

If it is not possible for a student to take part, please inform the relevant teacher.

Q: What learning is it possible to do at home?

A: Our teaching teams usually plan collaboratively so are used to setting work which complements the unit of inquiry or is “stand alone”. Homeroom teachers will continue to set maths, English Language and literacy, Unit of Inquiry and PSPEE activities virtually, while specialist teachers add age appropriate Music, Art, Spanish or EAL and library. For PE, Chris Lehane will include links to online physical activities such as active videos to do at home. We would also recommend, if you are able to get outdoors, to ensure a regular programme of physical activity in local parks. All children from KG upwards should also continue instrumental practice.

Q: Will all learning be digital?

A: We will communicate digitally, but learning will consist of a range of digital and traditional “analogue” learning so that children have a more balanced day - just as they do in school.

Q: Will homeroom teachers “meet” online at the usual times?

A: No, but homeroom teachers will start and end each day’s “lessons” online to provide some semblance of normality to start and end the school day with some routine class messages.

Q: What will happen if the teacher is ill?

A: Our homeroom teachers plan collaboratively. If one of the grade teachers becomes ill or unable to teach, we will try to continue online learning as best we can with the rest of the teaching team. Obviously, the plan is dependent upon having sufficient teachers to be able to maintain a reasonable service.

Technology-related

Q: Can students use non-school devices for online activities?

A: No. Each child will be sent home with their school iPad and charger which is already pre-loaded with the

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applications used in school for that specific child. We will contact parents with basic instructions such as access PIN codes.

Q: Do Southbank internet firewalls restrict student internet access outside of school?

A: No, internet use away from school is beyond the school's monitoring and restrictions. However, the school's Digital Safety Agreement remains in effect for school-issued devices (<https://www.southbank.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/49/2019/07/Digital-Safety-Policy.pdf>).

Q: What happens if there is a technical problem with the online learning platforms?

A: Our school IT support desk will remain in operation and, whenever possible, technical issues will be resolved remotely. Parents can contact the support desk at the usual email address: ithelp@southbank.net Seun Olaniyi is our current Hampstead IT support person. If a remote remedy is not possible, the IT support team and teacher, between them, will advise students about what to do.

Q: What if a student has no internet access (wifi or 4G)?

A: Our IT support team cannot resolve issues related to internet access at students' homes.

Learning-related

Q: What if a student doesn't understand something or has a question about an assigned task?

A: Teachers will maintain normal school hours and will be available as much as possible during those hours. Students/Parents can email teachers during school work hours. Contact made outside of those hours, for example, if an email is sent after 15.30, may not receive a response until the following school day; this will be taken into account if the submission of work is dependent on input from a teacher. Our EAL and Learning support staff will also be available to support individual students and set appropriate work. Clearly for children who are in the early stages of literacy and numeracy (eg EC, KG) online learning presents more challenges, but our staff will try to collate meaningful activities related to class learning which can be done at home.

Q: Will there still be assessments?

A: Teachers may assign formative or summative assessments at their discretion as part of the normal learning process. These might be short quizzes or longer tasks for older students and would be part of normal learning in any classroom.

Others

Q: Will there be ECA if school closes?

A: No Hampstead ECA will run during the period of a school closure or on the first day back to school after a closure. Information about the resumption of ECA will be shared after school reopens.

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Q: Will students be able to enter school buildings during a closure?

A: No. However, if school closes at very short notice, we will explore ways to allow students to retrieve resources from school and then communicate with students and parents.

Q: Will anyone be in the school building during a closure?

A: It will depend on the kind of closure, the official health advice at the time and staff's personal circumstances if there is an area-wide closure.

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