

Thursday 19 March 2020

COVID-19 Update

Dear Kuyper Families,

We as a school continue to monitor the virus situation and how it impacts Kuyper and other schools. You may have heard about schools closing and sending students home to work however, the Government still strongly insists that the best place for students to be at this time is at school. Having said this, a small number of families have decided to work from home with their children. As parents, you are entitled to do this, and specific medical conditions may make this necessary.

The best information we have suggests that this situation will continue for many months. Possibly 6 months or more, so we need to have a long-term view of the circumstances. Our intention is to support families through this situation. Should the financial impact of the virus seriously affect you we would like to speak with you about how we can assist. We are stronger together.

Thank you for keeping any sick children at home and collecting your child from School should they become ill and we contact you. If a confirmed case of the virus in our School community becomes known to me, I will alert you and follow instructions from our authorities.

Reflection...

The coronavirus has really '*upset the apple cart*'. Some people feel as if they have lost all sense of certainty, not knowing what will happen next. The story is growing day by day, panic is beginning to show. Just look in your local supermarket to see evidence of that.

As humans, we like to think that we are in control. We think that if we burn the right fuels, eat the right foods, plan for the future, get that extra roll of toilet paper, we will be in control of our lives and the world. We have an illusion of being in control of our destiny. It is situations like the one we are facing now with the virus, and prior to that floods, fires and drought, that we realise that we are not in control.



Rabbi Moss recently wrote the following piece: (Used with permission)

"It is not that we have lost our sense of certainty. We have lost our illusion of certainty. We never had it to begin with. This could be majorly unsettling, or amazingly liberating.

This tiny virus of 125 nanometres has sent the entire world into chaos. All our plans are up in the air, markets are going crazy, entire countries shutting down, and we have no clue what the future holds.*

But that is always the case. We never know what the future holds. We only think we do and keep getting surprised when things don't pan out the way we expected. Now the mask is off. We have to admit our vulnerability.

What will happen next? We don't know. Our experts don't know. Our leaders don't know. Only God knows. And that is the point. Only God knows.

Close your eyes and feel the uncertainty, make peace with it, let yourself be taken by it. Embrace your cluelessness. Because in all the confusion there is one thing you know for sure. You are in God's hands.

Keep calm. Panic and fear are also contagious. Take every precaution as advised by health authorities. Wash your hands well. And every time you do, remember whose hands you are in."

As Christians we know who holds the future. This gives us hope even amidst the trauma of calamity. The Kuyper Team have been studying the Heidelberg Catechism (written in 1563) during devotions. Lords' Day 10 points to a God that has His world totally in His hands. I commend it to you.



Ian Shaw

Principal

Heidelberg Catechism, Lord's Day 10

27. Q. What do you understand by the providence of God?

A. God's providence is his almighty and ever present power,¹ whereby, as with his hand, he still upholds heaven and earth and all creatures,² and so governs them that leaf and blade, rain and drought, fruitful and barren years, food and drink, health and sickness, riches and poverty,³ indeed, all things, come to us not by chance⁴ but by his fatherly hand.⁵

1. [Jer 23:23](#), [24](#); [Acts 17:24-28](#).

2. [Heb 1:3](#).

3. [Jer 5:24](#); [Acts 14:15-17](#); [Jn 9:3](#); [Prov 22:2](#).

4. [Prov 16:33](#).

5. [Mt 10:29](#).

28. Q. What does it benefit us to know that God has created all things and still upholds them by his providence?

A. We can be patient in adversity,¹ thankful in prosperity,² and with a view to the future we can have a firm confidence in our faithful God and Father that no creature shall separate us from his love;³ for all creatures are so completely in his hand that without his will they cannot so much as move.⁴

1. [Job 1:21](#), [22](#); [Ps 39:10](#); [Jas 1:3](#).

2. [Deut 8:10](#); [1 Thess 5:18](#).

3. [Ps 55:22](#); [Rom 5:3-5](#); [8:38](#), [39](#).

4. [Job 1:12](#); [2:6](#); [Prov 21:1](#); [Acts 17:24-28](#).