



Bessastaðir,
24 March 2020

A message from the President of Iceland
to school staff at all educational levels

Dear teachers, instructors, school assistants and other school staff at all educational levels,

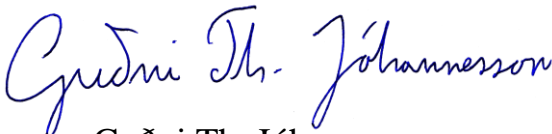
I send you our warmest greetings. I wish those who are now experiencing illness a good recovery. And I also send sincere greetings to those who are now in preventive quarantine. I urge all the people of this country to comply in every way with rules and instructions, and to keep calm in face of the present difficult situation.

We are now battling a life-threatening scourge. Here in Iceland various measures have been introduced in response to the pandemic that is raging around the world. That has had an impact on all activities in schools. It has been admirable to observe the response of school staff, who have introduced distance learning, reorganised departments and classes, and sought innumerable other means of providing care, attention and education to their students in these extraordinary conditions.

Assuredly, you have been under great pressure during these difficult and demanding days. But you have carried out your work faithfully and with care, and have done so admirably. For that I thank you, from the bottom of my heart.

Our situation is likely to grow worse before we gain the victory in this battle. Yet we shall be victorious, and then the sun will rise again over our society. Then we will continue to care for the children of our nation in preschools and primary schools, prepare our young people for adult life in secondary schools, and go on to provide them with opportunities for specialised education and training. In that way, we will continue along the road of progress. That is how we foster our knowledge and scholarship, to the good of all.

My dear friends: on behalf of Eliza and myself I reiterate our warm greetings, and we express our good wishes to all of you.


Guðni Th. Jóhannesson