

Teachers circulate fun videos, call each student to bring cheer

Sadia Akhtar

• sadia.akhtar@fivive.com

GURUGRAM: While technology is allowing students to virtually connect with classmates and teachers amid the nationwide lockdown to curb the spread of Covid-19, schools are also taking cognisance of the pandemic's effect on their mental well being.

Several private schools in the city are taking steps to ensure children are not overwhelmed by "the new reality".

Parents of students at DPS-Sector 45 were surprised when they received a video featuring the school's principal and headmistresses dancing to songs while doing house chores. The video, they said, brought a smile to their children's faces.

School principal Aditi Misra said the idea behind the video was to make children laugh at a time when they have been away from physical classrooms for over a month due to the unprecedented circumstances.

"During the third week of the lockdown, students sounded low while attending one of the online classes. When I asked why, one of them said they wanted schools to reopen soon. I realised that it was

They are missing their friends, teachers and the environment. They are missing the routine.

JYOTI RAGHAVAN, mother of two daughters who study in separate private schools in Gurugram

important to cheer them up since there was no certainty around the resumption of offline classes," Misra, who reached out to the school's leadership team and headmistresses soon after, said.

"We put together this video... The idea was to send out the message that household work is dignified and make people smile. The video got good response from parents too," Misra said. The school has also asked children to share videos of them dancing and doing other activities; these are being collated on the school portal.

Besides the video that was shared by the principal, teachers from the school have also been calling students individually to keep a tab on them.

Komal Lalwani, a parent, said that teachers were making sure that parents and students didn't worry too much about monthly

tests or other issues. "There is interaction beyond academics too," he said.

Amity International School, Sector 43, has pooled in resources with Amity University for a 24X7 helpline, where problems shared by children are recorded and responded to. She said that children, like everyone else, were experiencing emotional stress due to the pandemic. "Children, too, are used to their safe spaces, places where they can go and interact with others their age, something that has not been happening since the lockdown began. They are learning to cope with the changed realities," Arora said, adding that the school was regularly writing to parents and students to ensure they can be being able to cope with the situation.

At Heritage Xperiential Learning School, besides the daily check-ins during classes, school teachers have been calling students individually to ensure their well being during this difficult time, Vishnu Karthik, director, Heritage Group of Schools, said. Teachers at the school also held virtual assemblies and end-of-year gatherings for students to ensure they were not deprived of meaningful experiences.