



OUR REF :

TRN : 100483609200003

Saturday, 18th September 2021

To: The Parents of students in Years 1-13 – WEEKLY UPDATE FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2021-2022 (AHEAD OF WEEK FOUR)

Dear Parents,

Greetings from Saint Mary's. We trust that this update finds you and your families safe and healthy. We would like you to read on and familiarize yourselves with all the important news for the upcoming week. (Week Four)

IF YOUR CHILD HAS TESTED POSITIVE FOR COVID-19, YOU MUST TELL US WITHOUT ANY DELAY BY FILLING IN THE LINK ON THE WEBSITE AND UPLOADING A COPY OF THE PCR TEST-Many parents are not following this critical step and we only get to know from DHA days later. In this event we will be unable to contact trace and this could lead to multiple infections among children. WE MUST BE RESPONSIBLE IN KEEPING OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY AS SAFE AS WE CAN.

PLEASE DO NOT SEND CHILDREN TO SCHOOL IF THEY SHOW ANY SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19. WE WILL HAVE TO CALL YOU TO TAKE THEM HOME AND THEN A NEGATIVE PCR IS NEEDED TO RETURN TO SCHOOL . (As per DHA guidelines – Students and staff who exhibit Covid-19 symptoms should stay home until they produce a negative PCR result and should be free of symptoms to resume.)

- 1) STUDENTS COMING IN FOR BLENDED LEARNING (What do parents need to keep in mind ?):** PLEASE REFER TO OUR WEEKEND CIRCULAR OF 10TH SEPTEMBER FOR ALL INFORMATION RELATED TO THIS .
- 2) TRAVEL DECLARATION :** **KHDA** has informed us that in line with new protocols for face-to-face learning, please note that it is no longer obligatory for schools to request parents to submit a 'Travel & Health Declaration Form', as this is embedded within the wider Dubai Protocols.

3) CRITICAL AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE REQUIRED IF ANY STUDENT TESTS POSITIVE, EVEN AT THE WEEKEND: : If any child shows symptoms of Covid-19, they must be kept at home and a diagnosis must be sought from an approved medical practitioner. **If a child tests positive, the parent must use the link on the school website and fill out the required details and upload a copy of a PCR test that has been conducted. These are critical DHA requirements and have to be treated with the utmost seriousness.** The school will then contact the parents of any other child who was in contact with the child in question as well as staff members who will also have to self isolate for 10 days as part of contact tracing requirements. ***A DHA Clearance Certificate for a child who previously tested positive is also required in order for the child to return to school.*** In addition in case a child or a parent, sibling or any family member of a child tests POSITIVE for COVID-19, an email must be sent to Ms. Lise-Ann and Dr. Dayani without delay and the child, by virtue of being a close contact, must be kept at home to self isolate for 10 days.

4) A RETURN TO FULL FACE-TO-FACE LEARNING FROM 3RD OCTOBER 2021
: We have been receiving several queries from parents if the option for Distance Learning is still open to students after the 3rd of October 2021. Please read the note below taken directly from the KHDA website: **DISTANCE LEARNING**

Can students continue with distance learning this academic year?

From the start of the academic year until September 30, parents will have the choice of distance learning or face-to-face learning for their children. From October 3rd 2021, all teaching and learning at Dubai private schools will be face-to-face only. After this date, students who wish to continue with distance learning must provide a medical certificate issued by Dubai Health Authority. Class groups or grade/year levels may temporarily switch to distance learning if positive cases of Covid-19 are detected.

5) PAYMENT OF FIRST TERM FEES :
The window for payment of the FIRST TERM FEES is between the 26th of August, 2021 and 30th September 2021. Fees that have not been paid by the 30th of September 2021 will be considered OUTSTANDING and commensurate actions will be applied as per regulator policy. We would like to remind ALL parents that timely fee payments are important for the sustained functioning of the school. Parents are reminded that **ALL FIRST TERM FEES MUST BE PAID BEFORE THE 30TH OF SEPTEMBER 2021.**

FOR MORE DETAILS ON FEE PAYMENTS KINDLY REFER TO THE SECTION ON FEES IN OUR CIRCULAR DATED 26TH AUGUST 2021.

6) KHDA PARENT-SCHOOL CONTRACT FOR NEW ADMISSIONS TO ST. MARYS THIS ACADEMIC YEAR : We are **URGENTLY** reminding ALL parents whose children have joined our school this year that **YOU MUST SIGN THE KHDA PARENT-SCHOOL CONTRACT WITHOUT ANY FURTHER**

DELAY. We have been receiving daily reminders from KHDA that a majority of our new parents have not signed the contract and this could have serious consequences including cancellation of registration . If you are facing any difficulties with regard to signing the contract , please email Ms. Mary Fikry urgently on arabicsec-smchs@smgeducation.org

7) HOW HAVE WE BEEN PREPARING FOR A FULL FACE-TO-FACE RETURN OF OUR STUDENTS :

- a. We have installed several hand washing stations in various outdoor locations at the school. Students will be encouraged to use these for hand washing. Shaded coverings will be installed over these wash basins
- b. In order to be compliant with ventilation requirements , we have installed 5cm window stoppers so that windows are opened with a 5cm gap and they cannot be opened more than that. We will also be installing a mesh bracket for the gap to mitigate pressure on Air conditioning units and to minimize dust.
- c. We have ordered individual desks for Years 1, 2 and 3 so that each child has their own desk and chair and we can apply the 1 metre spacing as far as possible. Year one classes will be partitioned in keeping with the requirement for safe bubbles of 15 students.
- d. We have affixed individual MY SPACE markers for every student desk to indicate the 1 metre distancing or the closest to 1 metre as is possible with the room size.
- e. We have also conducted a complete audit of the premises for Wifi and relevant actions will be taken based on recommendations.
- f. A highly rigorous cleaning system has been put into place with additional cleaning staff and documented schedules that get filed on a daily basis. All chemical disinfectants used are Dubai Municipality compliant and we have the certification for all of these.

- g. Yellow bins for medical waste (used masks, used gloves, used sanitizing wipes) have been provided in all classes. Please remind your children to be gentle on the pedals as these have come at a high cost.
- h. A detailed risk assessment has being carried out with specific relevance to Covid-19 protocols.
- i. We have a very high 99% vaccination rate among ALL our staff including teaching, non-teaching as well as outsourced support staff.
- j. We will not be in any hurry to conduct large gatherings like assemblies and other events and we will still be conducting assemblies per class of 30 students in their own classrooms.
- k. Arrivals and dispersals will be staggered to avoid crowding and we will have more on this in our next update.
- l. Break times will be on a rota basis. Not all classes will be outside daily. For the time being ALL classes will have their break indoors due to HIGH OUTDOOR TEMPERATURES.

We are doing the best we can to ensure the safety of our students and staff but we cannot achieve this without the collaboration of our parents and children. Please talk to your children about the critical need for them to co-operate with us. **PLEASE SEND THE HYGIENE KIT DAILY AND ENSURE IT HAS ALL THE CONTENTS WE HAVE SPECIFIED. PLEASE DO NOT SEND YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL IF THEY HAVE EVEN THE MIDLEST OF FLU-LIKE SYMPTOMS AND PLEASE INFORM US IMMEDIATELY VIA THE LINK IF YOUR CHILD TESTS POSITIVE FOR COVID-19.**

- 8) REGISTRATIONS FOR STS TRANSPORT :** We have uploaded the latest letter from STS regarding fresh bus registrations for OCTOBER TO DECEMBER 2021 with a deadline of 22nd December for registration. Please find the detailed letter on the school website under the section titled Transport.
- 9) IMPORTANT SURVEY REGARDING TRANSPORT AND VACCINATIONS TO BE FILLED AND SENT TO THE CLASS TEACHER LATEST BY THE 22ND OF SEPTEMBER 2021 :** We have attached an important information sheet to this circular that ALL PARENTS MUST FILL without fail and scan and email it back with relevant attachments (if applicable) to your child's class teacher no later than the 22nd of September 2021.
- 10) EMIRATES LITERATURE FESTIVAL OF READING (LITFEST) :** We would like to remind ALL parents to go through the flyer that we have uploaded that has all the

information about various competitions that are a part of the Emirates Litfest. Students can register individually for the individual competitions. If a student is interested to take part in a team event, then he/she must give his/ her name to his/ her English Language teacher and we will later conduct an internal elimination round to be fair to ALL those who express an interest. Please note that team events will require a great deal of commitment and preparation after school hours (virtually) as well as individual preparation and those who wish to take part must keep this in mind and not pull out at the last minute which compromises the work of other children in the team and hugely disadvantages them.

- 11) READING CHECK FOR NEW ADMISSIONS TO YEARS ONE THROUGH FOUR:** A simple check for age appropriate reading will be conducted for ALL new admissions from years one through four. An appointment slot will be communicated to you via the student's school email ID. This assessment is to gauge whether the student requires additional support to gain age appropriate reading skills. Kindly ensure that your child is well prepared and ready to display his/her reading skills to an adult for a 15 minute time slot. The student support services team will get in touch with you via the student school email ID to schedule a time for this.
- 12) SIMS PARENT APP/ ACTIVE LEARN:** Please note that these are still in process and our IT Support will be sending out the invitation and credentials for the same in some time. We will let you know via a circular when that process gets rolled out. Kindly do not email IT Support for this at the moment.
- 13) BOARD EXAMINATION FEES:** We would like you to be informed well in advance that EDEXCEL LONDON BOARD EXAMINATION FEES will be collected in the month of NOVEMBER 2021 for students in years ELEVEN and THIRTEEN. We trust that this will help you to budget accordingly. You can check your KHDA Parent-School contract for the BOARD EXAM FEE AMOUNT for each year group.
- 14) URGENT QUERIES AND CONCERNS:** If you have any urgent queries and concerns, kindly send an email to our Vice Principal , Ms. Lise-Ann on l.pinto-smchs@smgeducation.org and she will get back to you. Please include your telephone number in case she needs to call you.

15) A FULL RETURN TO FACE-TO-FACE LEARNING FROM 3RD OCTOBER (WILL BE PHASED OUT FROM THE WEEK BEFORE THE 3RD OF OCTOBER): As all parents will be aware , the new protocols issued by KHDA mandate a full face-to-face return of ALL students . From the 3rd of October 2021, there will be no option for Distance Learning. In order to have a seamless start where all cohorts will be on site from the 3rd of October we will be phasing in cohorts from the week prior to the 3rd in order to avoid crowding as well as getting ALL students used to entry and exit procedures and the 'new routines' ahead.

MORE NEWS WILL FOLLOW IN OUR NEXT WEEK'S UPDATE.

16) YEAR TWELVE BOOK ORDERS: Year 12 students have received the login requirements to order books. This has been sent to their school email IDs.

We take this opportunity to wish each and every one of you a safe and productive start to the new week ahead.

Yours sincerely



Mr. Paul Asir Joseph
(Principal)



TRANSPORT AND COVID-19 VACCINATION SURVEY

PLEASE FILL IN THIS SHEET, SCAN AND EMAIL IT WITH RELEVANT ATTACHMENTS TO YOUR CHILD'S CLASS TEACHER

NAME OF STUDENT: _____

YEAR GROUP AND SECTION : _____

MODE OF TRANSPORT FROM 3RD OCTOBER: _____

- A) STS BUS
- B) PUBLIC TRANSPORT (METRO / RTA BUS)
- C) OWN TRANSPORT (PARENT OR GUARDIAN)

Although Covid-19 vaccinations are not compulsory, the KHDA regularly sends us surveys that require this information. Therefore we request you to kindly provide the same to us.

Has my child received a Covid-19 vaccination ? _____ (yes/ no)

If yes please state if ONE DOSE or TWO DOSES : _____

Name of Vaccine taken : _____

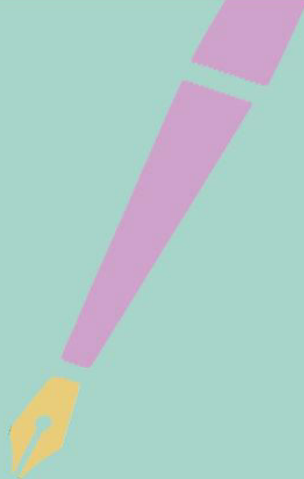
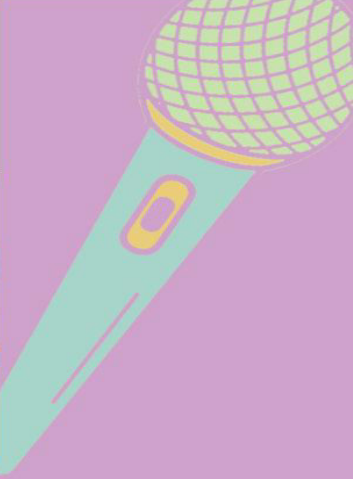
Please attach the vaccine certificate if your child has received the same.

NAME OF PARENT : _____

SIGNATURE : _____ DATE : _____

One Festival of Literature Four exciting competitions!

Enter now at elfdubai.org

 <h2>Short Story Writing Competition</h2> <p>'Here comes the sun' is the inspiration for your story. For students in four age categories up to 25.</p> <p>Closing date: 3 November 2021</p>	 <h2>RGS Guildford Dubai Children's Letter Writing Competition</h2> <p>The Letter Writing Competition celebrates both the aesthetic of handwriting and well-crafted messages.</p> <p>Closing date: 8 December 2021</p>	 <h2>Readers' Cup</h2> <p>Join your school team and compete for the Cup. For students in two age categories up to 16.</p> <p>Closing date: 13 October 2021</p>	 <h2>Emirates NBD Poetry For All</h2> <p>Bring poetry to life through your performance. For students in two age categories from 8-18 years.</p> <p>Closing date: 15 November 2021</p>
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Readers' Cup, Emirates NBD Poetry For All, and RGS Guildford Dubai Children's Letter Writing competitions are now open for registration.

Additionally, the story writing competition is already open and receiving entries with the theme of 'Here Comes the Sun'.

For Resources page, please click this [link](#).

For more information and to register, please click [HERE](#)

We are looking forward to an exciting year of student competitions.