



OUR REF :

TRN: 100483609200003

Friday, 5th November 2021

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

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 Eleven)

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.) Even children who are showing symptoms at home will most likely be asked for a negative PCR test to return to school. Our school clinic will assess each case. We can all be responsible in keeping our Marian family safe in this way.

1) HAPPY DIWALI WEEKEND: We would like to take this opportunity to wish all the families celebrating the festival of lights , a very happy Diwali and may God's abundant blessings be with your families as you celebrate together.



2) KHDA REGULATIONS FOR ONLINE LINKS DURING FACE-TO-FACE LEARNING:
Please check circular of 21ST October - All information regarding protocols will not be repeated and can be referred to in the circular of 21ST October -

Link : [WEEKLY-CIRCULAR-21-OCTOBER-AHEAD-OF-WEEK-NINE](#)

3) SCHOOL UNIFORMS: It has been a disappointing experience especially with many of our young lads who are being repeatedly reminded to have a hair cut or trim their long locks and yet see them day after day not paying heed to these simple yet important reminders. We urge parents to kindly set aside some time this weekend to have your son's hair cut or trimmed neatly so that it is more becoming of a well turned out school boy. Kindly refer to our **UNIFORM POLICY** attached to this circular. **BOYS MUST HAVE A NEAT AND SHORT HAIRCUT AND GIRLS MUST NOT HAVE COLOURED OR HIGHLIGHTED HAIR.** Students may wear a wristwatch and girls may wear one pair of simple studs on the lower part of the ear lobe. Multiple ear piercings or nose piercings are not permitted.



PERMITTED.



NOT PERMITTED

Only school jackets/ hoodies will be permitted from November onwards.

Link : [UNIFORM POLICY 2021-2022](#)

4) 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 7 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 7 days.

5) EXCAVATION WORK BY DEWA AROUND THE PERIPHERY OF THE SCHOOL

OUTSIDE GATE 5: As most parents who drop their children off will be aware, there is large scale work being undertaken by DEWA that covers a vast area on the road that leads to GATE 5 as well as along the full wall of the school on that side. The school was not informed about this work and we have contacted DEWA explaining to them how this has practically paralyzed all access for both our parents and children to the gate as well as highlighting the potential dangers that such work poses to our children. They have responded saying the work will be finished as soon as possible. However in the interim we need the full collaboration of you dear parents to ensure the safety of the children as well as to ensure that we are not posing a safety hazard to the schools around by double parking and blocking access to their gates as was witnessed yesterday.

We would like you to follow these few guidelines in light of the fact that DEWA have left only a very narrow path for access to GATE 5

1. Please do not drop your children on the road or stop your cars at the traffic lights and have them hurriedly get out of the cars. We do not want any accidents for anybody.
2. Please do not cross the road with the children. For the time being only, please allow the school staff to assist them with crossing at the zebra crossing as the path is very narrow and we would like the path to be accessed just by the children so that they are not walking on the road.
3. Please do not argue and fight with school staff who are only there to ensure the safety of ALL the children. School staff are going above and beyond their call of duty by assisting on the road and the least we can do is to be courteous and respectful. It has been a very disappointing experience with some parents who have even been verbally abusive and extremely rude with us.
4. There are over TEN THOUSAND students who access the schools in the vicinity. All these schools are in such close proximity that we have to be respectful of one another and not block access to their gates when we come to drop off or pick up our children.

5. Last week one of our parents had completely blocked the road behind DESS and the buses from Rashid Al Saleh were not able to move out. I was also informed that one of our parents nearly ran over the facilities manager and a staff member of DESS. We have to take a step back and reflect on how we are modeling responsible behaviour for our children as well as how we might be endangering their lives and the lives of others.

WE DO NOT WANT ANY ACCIDENTS TO TAKE PLACE OUTSIDE OUR SCHOOL SO LET US ALL PLEASE BE CAREFUL, DRIVE SLOWLY AND MAKE AN EXTRA EFFORT THESE DAYS TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF EVERYONE AROUND US.

6) IBT ARABIC EXAM FOR ARABIC B- NON-ARAB SPEAKERS FROM YEARS FIVE , SEVEN and NINE ONLY : Parents of students in Years Five , Seven and Nine who have not yet paid for the IBT ARABIC B exam are requested to do so without any further delay. Please email the skiply receipt indicating payment to the class teacher. **YEAR 5 NON ARAB STUDENTS WILL HAVE THEIR IBT ARABIC TEST ON 10TH NOVEMBER AND ALL STUDENTS MUST BRING A FULLY CHARGED DEVICE FOR THE TEST.**

7) ASSESSMENTS FOR THE NOVEMBER 2021 REPORT : Keeping in mind that a full return to on-site learning came into effect only from the 3rd of October as well as bearing in mind various gaps in learning for all cohorts, we have decided to use a different approach for Assessments for the November report. Details can be found below.

YEARS ONE THROUGH FOUR

CRITERIA	MARKS
ALL SUBJECTS-AFL (as evidenced across time)	10
ONE MARKED ASSIGNMENT - All assignments will be uploaded to GC and students should turn them in to GC too. Assignments will be posted on the Saturday before the week ahead.	10
SCHEDULE for ASSIGNMENTS ALL SUBMISSIONS LATEST BY SATURDAY OF THAT WEEK. Please turn them in as they are completed.	31 st October to 4 th November – MATH. ENG. READING/ENG. LANGUAGE, RELIGIOUS STUDIES/ CITIZENSHIP;

	7 TH to 11 th November- ENG. LITERATURE, HISTORY, SOCIAL STUDIES & COMPUTING
	ARABIC & PSHE – 12 TH & 13 TH Nov. – submission 14 th November
	14 th to 18 th –SCIENCE, GEOGRAPHY, FRENCH and MORAL EDUCATION
ART	20 marks as evidenced by work done in class over the last few weeks
MUSIC	20 marks as evidenced by AFL and work done.
PE	20 marks as evidenced by AFL and skill development

YEARS FIVE & SIX

CRITERIA	MARKS
CORE SUBJECTS ASSESSMENT IN WRITING AND SCANNED AND UPLOADED TO GC- Students may use a smartphone or a tablet to scan.	20 MARKS –ONE ASSESSMENT Begin by 3 rd November.
ALL SUBJECTS AFL	10 MARKS
NON-CORE SUBJECTS ONE MARKED ASSIGNMENT- All assignments to be uploaded to GC and students should turn them in to GC too.	20 MARKS
SCHEDULE for ASSIGNMENTS ALL SUBMISSIONS BY SATURDAY OF THAT WEEK. Please turn them in as they are completed.	31 st October to 4 th November – RELIGIOUS STUDIES/ CITIZENSHIP and FRENCH
	7 TH to 11 th November- HISTORY & COMPUTING
	14 th to 18 th – GEOGRAPHY
ART	20 marks as evidenced by work done in class over the last few weeks
MUSIC	20 marks as evidenced by AFL and work done.
PE	20 marks as evidenced by AFL and skill development

YEARS SEVEN THROUGH TEN

CRITERIA	MARKS
ALL SUBJECTS ASSESSMENT IN WRITING AND SCANNED AND UPLOADED TO GC- Students may use a smartphone or a tablet to scan.	30 MARKS –Combination in two assessments. Many have already been done.
ALL SUBJECTS AFL / Presentations	10 MARKS- based on what has already been done
ALL SUBJECTS HW / ASSIGNMENTS- All assignments to be uploaded to GC and students should turn them in to GC too.	10 MARKS- based on what has already been done

YEARS ELEVEN THROUGH THIRTEEN

CRITERIA	MARKS
ALL ASSESSMENTS AND ASSIGNMENTS SO FAR COVERED UP UNTIL 10 TH NOVEMBER	Marks out of 100

Academic honesty is a fundamental part of learning and teaching and a core value of Saint Mary's Catholic High School

Dubai. While we understand that children are in your physical space while doing their assignments, we also know and trust that parents are the first teachers of values to their children. We therefore request you to only facilitate or help with the technological aspect if needed but to refrain from assisting in any way with the content of the assignment We know that above all else both parents and teachers want the values of honesty and integrity to be deeply embedded in the children as key drivers for their journey through life. Children watch us very closely and look up to us as role models and we want them to know that they can continue to maintain these values even when they are doing an assessment at home. We have noticed a few discrepancies from last year and so **we strongly urge ALL parents to maintain the highest standards of INTEGRITY and ETHICS while assignments are being done.**

8) COLLECTION OF ORIGINAL GCSE/ IGCSE CERTIFICATES (SUMMER 2021 SERIES) : Please see attachment ONE of the circular of 29th October 2021.

Link : [COLLECTION-OF-O-LEVEL-CERTIFICATES-SUMMER-2021](#)

9) NEW: DUBAI STUDENT WELL-BEING CENSUS –YEARS 7 - 13 : The Dubai student well-being census is back this year. Please check attachment TWO of the circular of 29th October.



Should you wish your child not to participate in the census, then kindly send an email to your child's class teacher. We will be conducting the census virtually on Thursday, 11th November at 4:00 pm. Class teachers will send the link to students. Students will

also receive the code in their school email.

[Link : KHDA-WELL-BEING-CENSUS](#)

10) PAYMENT OF FIRST TERM FEES : Please refer to the circular of 21st October 2021.

11) BOARD EXAMINATION FEES: Please refer to the circular of 21st October 2021.

12) SEATING ARRANGEMENTS IN CLASSROOMS : Please refer to the circular of 21st October 2021.

13) MINI WHITEBOARDS FOR YEARS 1-4: Please refer to the circular of 21st October 2021.

14) ISSUES WITH SOME PRIMARY CHILDREN NOT BRINGING STATIONERY/ HYGIENE KIT ITEMS –CHECK CLEANLINESS OF FACE SHIELD: Please refer to the circular of 21st October 2021.

15) SPARE SET OF CLOTHES FOR YEAR 1 CHILDREN : Please refer to the circular of 21st October 2021.

16) PARENTS' WHATSAPP GROUPS : While a whatsapp group maybe very useful for sharing important information that can be very helpful – sometimes essential – for busy parents, it has increasingly been noticed that these groups seem to have become breeding grounds for gossip, Chinese whispers and criticism. We are noticing more and more that a personal experience of a child or a staff member has become fodder for public comment and this has extended to even the very private medical information of children being openly discussed on parent groups. There's a broader societal issue here. This is all very new to us adults. We must reflect on the example we're setting. We talk about what our children are doing online, but we don't

reflect on our own behaviour; we don't have an agreed etiquette. We would like all parents , especially those in primary school to do some reflection on the unchecked chatter and quite often the vilifying of staff members in the parents' whatsapp groups and ask yourself if that is truly helping you or rather creating unwanted stress. As a school, we would like you to reach out to the teachers or to Ms. Lise-Ann (in more urgent cases) rather than allow what could be one parent's opinion or perspective or misinterpretation in many cases, cloud the perspectives of all the rest. Let us try not to micromanage the children but have more faith in their capacity for resilience and courage.

While we continue to encourage you to use emails as the official channels for communication, we would like to offer some useful guidelines for the ethical use of whatsapp groups should parents still feel the need for them.

Groups can be used to share :

- ✓ Reminders about deadlines, school activities, and events.
- ✓ Questions about school activities or special events e.g. what date the science project is due in, uniform or non-uniform day, when the deadline to pay for something is, etc.
- ✓ Sharing important information already posted in a circular to help reach more parents e.g. alerts about sickness, school policies, etc.
- ✓ Sharing information which can be useful to the other parents in the group e.g. where to buy costumes for dressing up days, ideas for projects, etc.
- ✓ Foster a sense of community
- ✓ Sharing relevant community notices e.g. road closures or new traffic lights in the local area, etc.



We **STRONGLY discourage** the use of the groups to:

- ✘ Gossip.
- ✘ Voice grievances.
- ✘ Share personal problems.
- ✘ Point out another child's behaviour.
- ✘ Discuss the work of teachers: if a parent has a concern regarding the teacher, that parent should speak with him or her directly.
- ✘ Raise individual concerns or complaints: if a parent has a particular concern or complaint regarding the School or any member of the Staff, that issue should be raised directly with the School .
- ✘ Share political or religious posts or discussions.



17) SOCIAL MEDIA NOT RECOMMENDED FOR PRIMARY CHILDREN : Please refer to the circular of 21st October 2021.

18) SOCIAL MEDIA FREQUENT CHECKS BY PARENTS FOR SECONDARY CHILDREN : Please refer to the circular of 21st October 2021.

19) 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. For subject –related concerns , kindly send an email to the subject teacher. For minor class-related concerns and absences , kindly send an email to both class teachers. Concerns will be addressed by a return email or a phone call from school depending upon the nature of the concern.

20) FULL UNIFORM FROM NOVEMBER 2021: We have provided adequate slots and time right from September 2021 for parents to purchase their children’s uniforms and we expect that from the month of November 2021, **ALL STUDENTS MUST BE WEARING THE CORRECT SCHOOL UNIFORM.**

21) USE OF MOBILE PHONES AND SMART WATCHES: Please refer to the circular of 21st October 2021.

22) BULLYING (PARTICULARLY FOR LOWER PRIMARY): Please refer to the circular of 21st October 2021.

23) STS TRANSPORT CONCERNS: Please refer to the circular of 21st October 2021.

24) PARENTS WHO HAD NOT BOOKED ACTIVE LEARN EARLIER: Please refer to the circular of 21st October 2021.

[Link : WEEKLY-CIRCULAR-21-OCTOBER-AHEAD-OF-WEEK-NINE](#)

We take this opportunity to wish each and every one of you a safe and happy weekend .

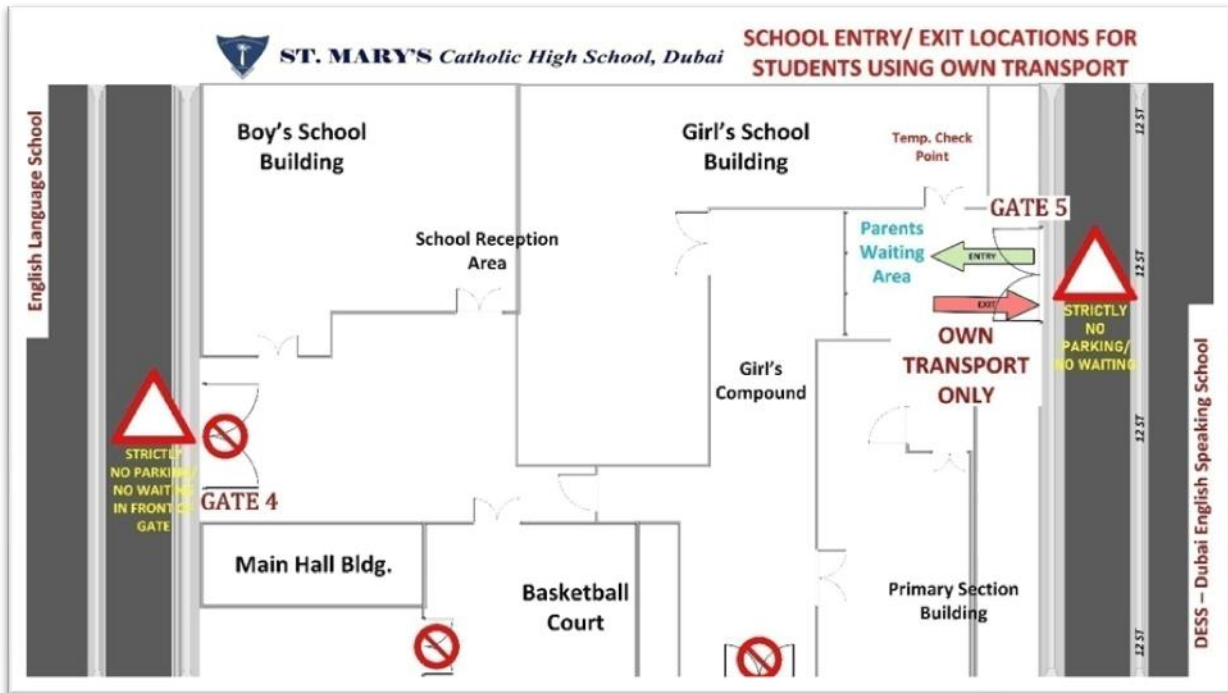
Yours sincerely



Mr. Paul Asir Joseph
(Principal)



School Entry | Exit Location for Student Using Own Transport



School Entry | Exit Location for Student Using Public Transport

