



**ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL**

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**مدرسة القديسة مريم الكاثوليكية الثانوية**

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OUR REF : .....

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DATE: Thursday, 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2020

**To: The Parents of students in Years 1-4 – Fourth update for the extended phase of Distance Learning**

**Dear Parents,**

Greetings from Saint Mary's. We would like to offer right at the onset our most sincere prayers for those families of our bigger Marian family that have been affected by illness due to the Covid-19 pandemic as well as other related financial stress and anxiety. We are truly facing extraordinary times that perhaps none of us would have imagined in our lifetime. For our little children this is an even bigger puzzle as they wonder why they have to be away from their teachers and friends for so long. One of our younger children wrote in 'May I at least take one walk around the playground? I promise I'll be quiet.' For us, that truly summed up how much they all miss their school, their friends and their teachers. The silence in our new workspaces (our homes) without their exuberance, their raucous laughter, and their loud conversations has become really deafening. So please tell them how much we miss them too!

### **SCHEDULED PLANS FOR THE NEXT MONTH (THE HOLY MONTH OF RAMADAN):**

You will receive the scheduled plans for the next one month along with this update and you will be able to see that we have further taken on board much of your feedback in preparing a schedule for the younger ones that is in fact more manageable and we have done our best to spread out the live sessions. We recognize that this is a special time of prayer and fasting for many families and will be even more meaningful in these challenging times we find ourselves in. We are grateful for all your feedback as well as your appreciation and have done our best to achieve a better balance for the children and for you dear parents as well.

### **UPDATED PARENT CONTACT INFORMATION TO CLASS TEACHERS:**

In the current crisis our class teachers might need to get in touch with you urgently. We had requested all parents to send an email (one single mail to both class teachers or multiple class teachers if you have more than one child in the school) **EMAIL SUBJECT: UPDATED PARENT CONTACT INFORMATION**. The information required is: Child's name and year group, Mother's current email ID and reachable working mobile number, Father's current email ID and reachable working mobile number. ***We have not yet received this information from all parents and it is critical that we receive it without any further delay.***

### **ZOOM GUIDELINES FOR PARENTS AND PRACTICE OF KEY CONTENT IN CORE SUBJECTS:**

All previous guidelines have been made available in our third update (previous circular). We thank you once again for your collaboration with the teachers in supporting your children through lessons. You too are our special heroes of this phase of Distance Learning and please know how much we appreciate the efforts you continue to make to guide your children with their work. Our teachers continue to conduct assessment for learning in these

sessions and these will help to analyse progress and provide some meaningful data for end of year grades. We would like to request all parents to encourage children to practice key concepts in English, Math, Science and Arabic at a pace best suited to you but keeping in mind that these will be crucial to a smoother transition for your child as he/she begins school for the next Academic Year. We of course will do our best to mitigate those natural gaps in learning that will have occurred owing to the current situation but your support in ensuring practice in these core subjects takes place consistently will help your child feel more secure through the mitigation process.

### **RAMADAN KAREEM:**

As we begin the Holy month of Ramadan we prayerfully wish that your heart and home be filled with all the blessings of The Almighty. May the true spirit of the Holy Season bless one and all with the virtues of tolerance, patience and God’s perfect peace. May these special prayers and fasting bring hope to those who are sick and are suffering in the time of this Global Pandemic. Ramadan Kareem to all our families and God’s most abundant blessings for each and every one of you.

### **TREE OF KINDNESS:**

During this Holy Month of Ramadan we are inviting all our children from years one through four to create a tree of kindness by planting a leaf ( with a good deed or something kind they have done at home during the day ) on their tree. Children may draw a tree and then colour the leaves in different shades or they may draw a tree and stick simple leaves cut out from paper on it. We leave the creativity up to them but we would love to see the kindness flow. We will be asking them to share their trees of kindness after Ramadan with their classmates and class teachers.

We would like to thank all of you, dear parents for your continued support and collaboration and above all for your prayers during this most challenging time of our lives. Let us continue to hold one another in prayer and be hopeful for better days ahead. We assure you that we shall keep you up to date with all important information as we journey through our Distance Learning Programme. Stay safe and healthy!

Yours sincerely,



Mr. Paul Asir Joseph  
( Principal )

