



OUR REF :

TRN : 100483609200003

DATE : Wednesday, 6th May 2020

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

Dear Parents,

Greetings from Saint Mary's. We trust that this update finds you and your families safe and well. We would like to request prayers for members of our Marian family who are grappling with the strains of ill health and other difficult challenges. A parent shared a beautiful perspective that is truly worth sharing with you all :

We are actually not all in the same boat. We are in fact all in the same storm but your ship might be shipwrecked but mine might not be or vice versa.

It is even more important now that we offer our sensitivity and tolerance to those who are facing greater challenges than we might be and pray for them in a special way. We all continue to pray that The Holy Month of Ramadan continues to be a special time of prayer and fasting for families in our school community.

SURVEY FOR PARENTS FROM KHDA : You will have received a survey link directly from KHDA yesterday evening . This is ahead of the online inspection of our Distance Learning which has been scheduled for Wednesday, 13th May. All schools across the UAE will be inspected so they may receive feedback on what's working well and what may be improved. As always your feedback has helped us adjust our Distance Learning Provision over the last few weeks to achieve a better balance for the children as well as you dear parents. We would like to request you to kindly spare five minutes to complete the survey as this goes a long way in setting the right tone for an inspection of this kind. Your collaboration is greatly appreciated.

UPDATED PARENT CONTACT INFORMATION TO CLASS TEACHERS/ A THIRD REQUEST GOING OUT TO A FEW PARENTS:

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.***

RETURNING STUDENTS FOR THE NEXT ACADEMIC YEAR 2020-2021:

Thank you to all of you who have been truly prompt in responding. May we request any parent who has not yet responded to kindly do so by this weekend. This is not applicable to students of Years 11 and 13. Year 11 students moving onto A-Levels will undergo a fresh admissions process and we will update you about this after Ramadan.

END OF YEAR EXAMINATIONS: We had received a few queries about how exams would be conducted and if they would be conducted at all. We would like to be clear that the traditional exams in the way we have them at school cannot be conducted in the present situation. We will conduct a few short assessments and we will send you further updates about this in our next update. Teachers continue to conduct Assessment for Learning during live sessions and we would also ask you to kindly keep the tasks your child has done over the last two weeks carefully. We will explain how these are to be sent so we can maintain a portfolio for each child and send you some feedback as well.

EMAIL NOTIFICATION TO CLASS TEACHERS FOR MEDICAL ABSENCES: While most parents have been contacting class teachers in the case of medical absences not all have. May we request you to kindly drop the class teacher stating that your child may not attend live sessions due to medical reasons. We completely respect your privacy at this time and there is no reason for you to share any details of the medical illness but do let us know so that we may log in the absence as justified.

SPECIAL SESSIONS FROM LIGHTHOUSE ARABIA: We have partnered with Light House Arabia to bring you two sessions on parenting in these challenging times on the 11th and 19th of May. Further details and the link for login will be sent to the class group email as well as to the SIMS Parent App. We hope that many parents will be able to benefit from these sessions.

DL SECTION ON OUR SCHOOL WEBSITE: We would like to remind ALL parents to kindly visit the DL section on our school website as we have been updating it with many useful links , documents, vital information for keeping your children safe online, tips on well-being and mindfulness to name a few. We are sure that you will find these useful and we will keep updating this section as often as we can.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR FEEDBACK IN THE SMG SURVEY: We would like to thank all the parents who took the time to fill in the survey. You will have seen that since then a lot of your suggestions have been taken on board and we have used your feedback to modify and improve our Distance Learning as best we can. Some suggestions though personal choices for some parents are not always practical in the current situation. We are grateful for all of you who have appreciated the work put in by the teachers who like you are also facing unprecedented hurdles and have had to adapt and re-adapt and change almost every day in this very fluid situation. Gratitude is such an important virtue and many of you have expressed it so beautifully. So from us to **YOU- A HEARTFELT THANK YOU !!!**

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. Our continued prayers for all our Marian families and our sincere hope that you and your children find strength in one another.

Yours sincerely,



Mr. Paul Asir Joseph
(Principal)

